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No paper Monday

Metro will not publish Monday, May 24. The next edition will appear Tuesday.

ReelMetro

Robin Kuniski

Calgary videographer's lighter side of city life at metronews.ca/reelmetro

Sports pg 19

Canadiens come to life

Movies pg 26

Defying the SNL curse

On the web
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Concert **Doc Walker**

SHELBY KOBYS/FOR METRO CALGARY

Doc Walker performed to a crowd of 1,200 fans at Flames Central in the opening act of this year's "Covert Concert," which unveiled the Coke stage lineup for the 2010 Stampede and Exhibition. **Lineup details are available at metronews.ca.**

City fraud suspected

Procurement allegation under investigation: Auditor

At least one allegation of fraud by city employees has been made to the Calgary's whistle-blower program and is under investigation, said the city's auditor.

The audit committee met yesterday and Tracy McTaggart presented her audit of the city's procurement policies.

During the meeting, McTaggart implied fraud might be occurring within the municipal organization.

"We have a number of allegations that are made to the whistler-blower program that are under investigation," McTaggart told Metro. "They range from breach of policy to inaccurate actions and perhaps fraud by some city employees, but they're just allegations at this point."

McTaggart said, statistically speaking, in a large organization like the City of Calgary, "there is some form of fraud going on somewhere."

Ald. Brian Pincott, chair of the audit committee, explained that while there may be at least one whistleblower allegation, the auditor's report found no evidence of fraud.

"What the auditor found was a looseness around policy," explained Pincott. "It found absolutely no fraud, there are no allegations of fraud, there are no allegations of any wrongdoing what so ever."

Pincott said the auditor spoke out of turn in the meeting when she implied fraud might be occurring.

"It's unfortunate that she made the statements the way she did, because it's a bit reckless," he said. "She found no instances or any hints of fraud in her more than two-year audit."

The city's procurement policies came under scrutiny last week after it was revealed that some contracts were provided to vendors without a proposal process.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO CALGARY

Animal activists allege rough treatment at circus site

SHRINERS Calgary animal activists are crying foul over the way they were allegedly treated by volunteers at the Al Azhar Shrine Circus last weekend.

Daisy Foundation founder Heather Anderson said she was appalled at the behaviour of the circus volunteers, who she says would not allow patrons who accepted anti-animal cruelty pamphlets from the group into the circus.

"They were cursing at us and ripping pamphlets out of our hands and threatening us. It was absolutely ridiculous. They turned some people away for taking our pamphlets," she alleged.

Lloyd Norman, chairman of the Calgary committee for the circus, said he believes the protesters have a right to express their views.

"I just tell the volunteers to not confront them, because we don't want to get into it. They have a right to be there but we don't want to engage with them," he said.

While another activist, Lisa Shaw, levied similar allegations, Norman said volunteers were not directing people away from the circus at the Crossroads Furniture Mart.

"They were just directing people where to park."

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Calgary. 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 6T7. Publisher: Steve Shrout

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Local

Calway Park set to open

Calaway Park's grand opening is this Victoria Day long weekend. The park will be open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. from Saturday to Monday. Season passes are on sale until May 25 for only $31.95 at local Co-Op's or online at www.calawaypark.com.

METRO CALGARY

News in brief

DISEASE Ticks carrying Lyme disease have been found on three dogs from Calgary, High River and Ardrossan. Alberta Health Services is recommending Albertans use insect repellent when in forest areas. If left untreated, Lyme disease can result in recurrent arthritis and in a small number of cases, chronic shooting pains and numbness.

METRO CALGARY

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CalgaryTweets

@nenshi The audit findings are deeply troubling, and evidence, again, of a serious governance crisis at City Hall. #yyc #yyccc

@cindyhrobert If you work downtown why would you want to live as far away as possible? Don't get this city. #yyc. #suburbiaisillogical.

@STARBUCKLY Ah, May long weekend in Alberta. Nothing quite like packing both winter jackets and swimming suits. /via @mamamonkey so true #yyc #yeg

Stephen Avenue **Singing against slavery**

SHELBY BORYS/FOR METRO CALGARY

Alyssa Bueckert, Joanna Bygrave, Ashley Johnston, Beth McLean Wiest, Reid McLean Wiest, Jennifer Patzer, Becky Timmons, Peter Vooys and Katie Young assembled on Stephen Avenue singing a cappella to passersby to raise awareness on the third largest criminal activity in the world next to narcotics and weapons smuggling: the ongoing global traffic of human slavery.

Take care on 2-4: Cops

JESSICA PICHE
for Metro Calgary

Have fun but be responsible, is the message police are sending Calgarians heading into the long weekend.

The RCMP is partnering with the government of Alberta to monitor highways and campgrounds to ensure safety.

Checkstops will be conducted starting Friday and will continue until late Sunday evening. Highway patrollers will also be on the lookout for seatbelt violations and aggressive drivers.

"Everyone wants to be out and the highway gets busy and dangerous," said Sheriff Sean Bunes. "The key is to just slow down. You'll get where you're going."

Only one person was killed last May long weekend, down from seven in 2008. The number of seriously injured also declined from 25 in 2008 to three last year.

Police said they expect these numbers to fall further as public awareness and enforcement visibility grows.

Campers are also being cautioned to ensure their campfires are properly extinguished and sites are maintained.

"Two hundred and fifty fires were left burning after May long last year," said Forests Information Officer Karen Ritchie.

Although volunteers pitch in to clean campsites after the long weekend, forest officer Cory Wojtowicz said Parks personnel often become "garbage collectors" for the week following. "It's a waste of time and resources we should be using elsewhere," agrees Ritchie.

The weather may not cooperate with campers' plans, but police said they are expecting a successful weekend.

Put gas tax back into roads, says CTF

MONEY If the government is going to gouge Canadians on gas taxes then the money should at least go directly back into roads, says the head of a tax watchdog organization.

Canadian Taxpayers Federation spokesperson Scott Hennig launched the 12th annual Gas Tax Honesty Day in Calgary on Thursday by calling on the federal government to pass the Gas Tax Accountability Act.

"It's great after five years of holding the government's feet to the fire they have put money from gas tax into roads, but when the current stimulus spending runs out, so will that," Hennig said.

Hennig would like the government to pass the Gas Tax Accountability Act that would make it law for that gas taxes are either spent 100 per cent on roads or at least let municipalities keep the funds.

SHELBY BORYS/FOR METRO CALGARY

Scott Hennig has continued to push for the government's use of fuel tax revenue spending.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/
METRO CALGARY

Long analysis at hand for shutterbug

THAILAND Doctors at Bangkok Christian Hospital have said it will take time to assess the long-term effects on a photographer originally from Calgary who was badly injured during the recent clashes in the Thai capital.

Chandler Vandergrift was hit by a grenade during clashes which started when the Thai army moved against the so-called Red Shirt demonstrators in Bangkok on Wednesday morning. Suffering from head and chest injuries he had neurosurgery when taken to the hospital as well as blood drained from his lung.

Chandler Vandergrift

"Recovery time is needed to evaluate his neurological deficit," said a statement from the hospital.

Currently semi-conscious, Chandler is breathing with help from a machine although the hospital expects he should be able to breathe by himself soon.

Some of his friends are with him at the hospital and family members are said to be travelling from as far as India and Africa to join him.

Chandler, who is in his mid-30s, is originally from Calgary but was educated at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local EI increases, says StatsCan

BENEFICIARIES The number of employment insurance beneficiaries in Calgary has increased over the last year, while rates in Canada have fallen, according to Statistics Canada. The number of people receiving EI in Calgary rose by 3,000, while the provincial numbers fell by 3,100 to 52,600. Since February, the total number of Canadians receiving EI has fallen by 24,200.

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Charges laid in recent pharmacy robberies

Police have laid charges against 51-year-old Jerry Dalford Saunders in connection with two recent pharmacy robberies. Saunders has been charged with three counts of robbery based on the number of victims at each store, according to police. METRO CALGARY

City's parks get interactive for centenary

Six art installations unveiled

JESSICA PICHE
for Metro Calgary

The hot pink ground squirrels that have popped up in Olympic Plaza are not a hallucination.

The creatures are actually celebrating 100 years of parks in Calgary. Along with five other interactive art installations, the piece was officially unveiled Thursday.

Titled I'm not a Gopher, artists Kristina Meehan-Prins and Jonathan Sagi said they wanted to bring a new understanding and acceptance to the Richardson's Ground Squirrel.

"It's a play on the idea of pink flamingos," said Meehan-Prins. Although a few of the animals seem to have run away, they are expected to stick around until the fall.

One other local artist is featured alongside four submissions from across Canada, including foam trees on loan from the Jardins de Metis in Quebec.

"It's a fun way to celebrate the role of parks in the city and how that's changed over time," said Michelle Reid, project manager with the City of Calgary Parks, Planning and Development.

Vandalism of the art works is not expected, said Reid. "People do respect their public parks and spaces," she said. "We trust that Calgarians will respect these installations."

The total cost of the project came in at $200,000.

Regarding the ground squirrels, ACAD student Mikaela Wasylyshyn said, "they're fun. They remind me of a game of wack-a-mole."

SHELBY BOBYS/FOR METRO CALGARY

Stéphane Hamal-Voisard was a proud recipient of a city parks 100th anniversary Landscapes of Celebration award by Deputy Mayor Druh Farrell for his contribution of an interactive garden of interchangeable, foam trees at Olympic Plaza shaped in the classic fashion of automobile air-fresheners.

City falls in learning index

REPORT Calgary is still one of the nation's leaders in the Canadian Council of Learning Index but has traded its first place spot for a third place finish.

The fifth annual report by the Canadian Council on Learning analyzed more than 4,500 cities across Canada and Calgary ranked third in 2010 — but analyst Garrett Laughlin said Calgary has been slipping the past couple of years.

"Calgary has constantly been a leader since we started the index and while they continue to be, they have not finished as strong," he said.

Top three

1 Victoria – 95
2 Saskatoon – 90
3 Calgary – 88

The index is based on four learning pillars whether in school, in the home, at work or within the community.

"Calgarians continue to do well in the work aspect but have dropped in the community pillar. This could be because of less sports and arts participation, possibly due to the downward economy."

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

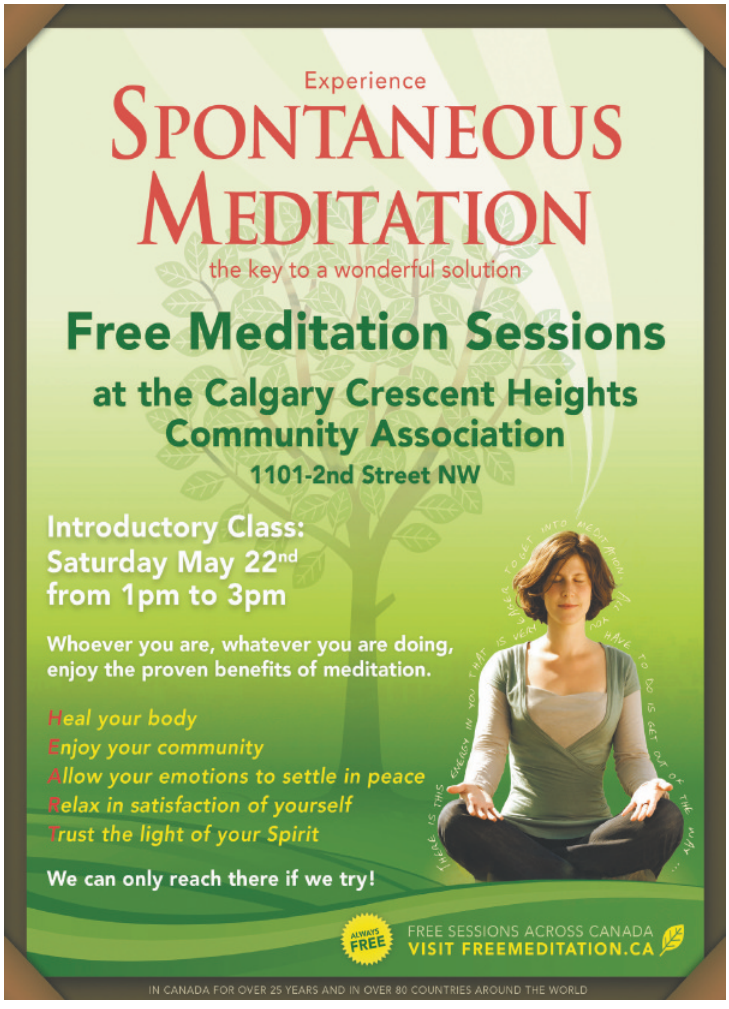
Man jumps into Bow in escape try

COCHRANE Jumping into the chilly Bow River in Cochrane was the culmination of a bizarre incident involving a man who allegedly assaulted a woman and attempted to elude RCMP.

The incident unravelled around 8 p.m. Wednesday in Cochrane when several people allegedly witnessed a man assaulting a woman in a car. When they tried to help he turned on them with a baseball bat, said RCMP. "Whether these people all know each other or not, we don't know yet," Sgt. Roger Waidson said.

When RCMP arrived, the man jumped into the river, where he was rescued by the Cochrane fire department and arrested by police. The man has not been charged yet though alcohol is believed to be a factor.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY



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Beware the weir
Calgarians are being warned this long weekend to be wary of the weir near St. George's Island while rafting in the Bow River. METRO CALGARY

Banners raised at the Barclay Parade

JESSICA PICHE
for Metro Calgary

Vibrant red banners are the latest addition to the Barclay Parade in the downtown core.

Tara Griffiths' artwork was launched as the inaugural banner installation Thursday and the bright pieces link Steven Avenue with Eau Claire.

Inspired by the surrounding architecture, Griffiths said she wanted the banners to be a reflection of the area.

"The blue banners by Eau Clare have water elements," explained Griffiths. "The banners along Barclay are fractals representing Calgary's growth."

The banners took almost a year to complete.

"I worked right up to the deadline," said Griffiths. Using a Japanese tie-dye technique, she dipped folded fabric in dye to create her unique pieces.

SHELBY BORYS/FORE METRO CALGARY

These bright red banners were installed along the Barclay Parade on Thursday.

Griffiths was commissioned to design the banners last year jointly through the Calgary Downtown Association and the City of Calgary.

"The CDA is extremely happy to see these banners done," said CDA spokesperson Caralyn Macdonald. "They're really updating the Barclay transition of the downtown Art Walk."

The banners are expected to hang for the next two years, said Macdonald. Griffiths plans to use the leftover fabric to create one-of-a-kind bags, which will be available soon.

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Man, 87, charged with years-old sex offences

Police have charged an 87-year-old man in Mount Albert, just north of Toronto, with sexual offences dating as far back as 1962. Police say three alleged victims were between the ages of five and 13 at the time — and they believe there may be more. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Don Cherry letting him speak?

Ron MacLean is finally getting the chance to say his piece. The co-host of CBC-TV's Coach's Corner with Don Cherry says he's releasing his memoirs, to be published by HarperCollinsCanada. He'll share his favourite stories from his career as a hockey and sports commentator. "My favourite stories come from Cervantes and Shakespeare," he said, adding: "And now Ron and Don?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poll: Few fear foreign owners

The Harper government appears to be on safe ground in its desire to allow more foreign competition in the telecommunications sector, a new poll suggests.

A Harris-Decima online survey of 1,003 Canadians found that where once many might have feared foreign ownership of the country's key industries, now a majority supports it.

In a survey taken in late April, 63 per cent of respondents supported more global investment in domestic telecommunications.

Only 30 per cent said that they feared foreign ownership would inhibit Canadian culture. THE CANADIAN PRESS

30 The percentage who told pollsters they feared foreign ownership of Canada's key industries.

Quebec goes it alone on veil ban, but it has global allies.

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Flashback **Sports tycoon punted to Senate**

CHUCK STODDY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In 2006, David Braley was just a high-powered businessman — seen here shaking hands with quarterback Dave Dickenson in Vancouver. But now Prime Minister Stephen Harper has appointed B.C. Lions owner Braley — the single biggest donor in his 2004 Conservative party leadership campaign — to a $132,000-a-year Senate seat. Sports tycoon Braley also owns the Toronto Argonauts and is known for his many philanthropic contributions.

Prentice pooh-poohs climate study

CLIMATE A report ranks Canada near the bottom of G8 nations when it comes to climate change, but Environment Minister Jim Prentice is dismissing the results.

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy places Canada sixth among G8 nations in its new low-carbon performance index.

But Prentice says the rankings are flawed, and he'll take it up with the federally appointed think-tank. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

POT Vancouver's most famous marijuana activist, Marc Emery, is on his way to the U.S. to serve a five-year jail term for selling marijuana seeds by mail. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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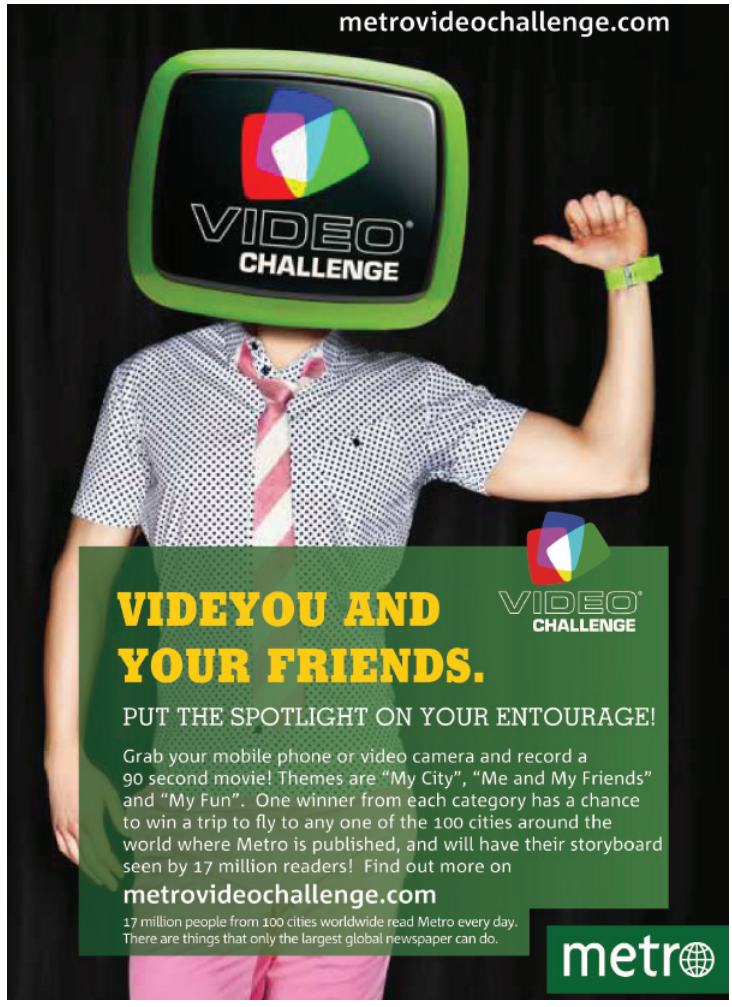

Foreign affairs minister blasts Bloc Quebecois leader

Lawrence Cannon says Gilles Duceppe's suggestion Canada doesn't deserve a UN Security Council seat was an attempt to damage its reputation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guergis gets $100 fine

Former junior cabinet minister Helena Guergis has been fined by the federal ethics commissioner for failing to report an $800,000 mortgage liability.

Commissioner Mary Dawson filed notice of a $100 penalty against Guergis on Thursday.

Guergis had publicly disclosed the mortgage in April, after news reports detailed the purchase of the home with her husband, Rahim Jaffer. But the Conflict of Interest Act requires MPs to report such new liabilities within 30 days — she bought the home in November 2009.

Helena Guergis

"I simply forgot and I accept responsibility for this oversight," she said.

"I have already made arrangements to pay the fine — within the 30 days I was provided to do so."

Other public office holders, including Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Prime Minister Stephen Harper's former director of communications Sandra Buckler, have also faced similar fines by the commissioner's office.

Guergis underlined that the commissioner had decided that she would not launch any review into the mortgage itself, which was also the subject of speculation she had secured it with no money down. Guergis refuted that, saying she had put about 30 per cent down on the house.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Feds may be 'dragged' into tobacco lawsuits

COURT The Supreme Court of Canada will consider whether the federal government should be named a defendant and dragged into massive court cases aiming to force tobacco companies to pay for health-care costs.

It's another incremental victory for British Columbia and other provinces that have spent years mounting the lawsuit, said Rob Cunningham, a senior policy analyst with the Canadian Cancer Society.

"It has been going on for a long time, but we're getting closer," he said Thursday after the high court granted the federal government leave to appeal two B.C. Court of Appeal decisions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

MISSION The Canadian military's plans to exit Kandahar by the end of next year are detailed and well-advanced, taking into account contingencies ranging from exit routes to snap elections at home. Internal documents obtained by the Toronto Star show the highly secretive Mission Termination Task Force is grappling with the cost of an exit strategy that could be thrown into chaos if a new Canadian government decides to recommit to the mission. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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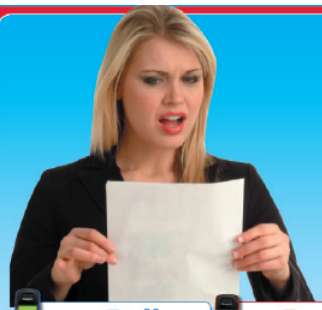

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World Health Organization takes stand on alcohol

Nations have adopted a global strategy to reduce alcohol abuse, breaking decades of inaction on one of the leading causes of sickness and death. The World Health Organization's 193 member states endorsed the strategy in a consensus vote on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Campbell may be subpoenaed over diamond

Prosecutors trying former Liberian president Charles Taylor for war crimes at a UN-backed court asked judges Thursday to subpoena supermodel Naomi Campbell to testify about being given uncut diamonds by him. Taylor denies prosecutors' allegations that he provided arms and ammunition to brutal rebels during Sierra Leone's civil war in exchange for so-called blood diamonds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Life-altering breakthrough?

In revolutionary research that may end up altering our definition of life, scientists have created the first synthetic cell powered by artificially created DNA.

The achievement caps 15 years of work by a large team of researchers, led by Craig Venter of Human Genome Project fame, who engineered a chromosome and inserted it into a bacterium to create a new living entity.

"This is the first self-replicating species that we've had on the planet whose parent is a computer," Venter told a teleconference presented Thursday by the journal Science, which published the work.

The cell, which contains more than a million DNA base pairs, or genetic letters — a mere speck compared with the six billion in human DNA — was created by writing genetic code on a computer, then combining a cocktail of chemicals to create a chromosome.

"It certainly changed my views of the definitions of life and how life works."

Geneticist Stephen Scherer, a senior scientist at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, called the research an "impressive technical feat."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Experts warn of long-term strife in Thailand

BANGKOK As soldiers mopped up pockets of resistance and the government declared it was back in control, fears grew Thursday that the tentative quiet restored to Bangkok after a bloody crackdown on protests may just be a respite from violence and political polarization that could continue for years.

Leaders of the anti-government Red Shirt movement vowed a return as they were taken into custody.

"I think this is a new beginning for the Red Shirts," said Kevin Hewison, a Thailand expert at the University of North Carolina.

"It will be a darker and grimmer time of struggle and less-focused activities. By no stretch of the imagination is the movement finished."

WASON WANICHAKORN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A firefighter surveys the interior of a Bangkok theatre destroyed by a fire set by arsonists Thursday.

The Thai government declared Thursday it had mostly quelled 10 weeks of violent protests in the capital as buildings smouldered, troops rooted out die-hard holdouts.

Some residents cautiously attempted a return to normal life a day after a military operation cleared the main commercial district of thousands of demonstrators, leaving 15 dead and nearly 100 injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BP says spill worse than thought

OIL BP conceded Thursday that more oil than it estimated is gushing into the Gulf of Mexico as heavy crude washed into Louisiana's wetlands for the first time, feeding worries about the massive spill.

A live video feed of the underwater gusher, posted online Thursday after lawmakers exerted pressure on BP, is sure to fuel anger.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Get off my lawn! Government-wary citizens aren't taking kindly to U.S. census workers

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Abortion ads to run in Britain

A sexual health charity says it plans to air Britain's first television ads for abortion services. Marie Stopes International says the 30-second commercial will run for the first time on Channel 4 late Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greece **More protests over austerity measures**

EVI ZOUPANOU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riot police officers try to move people away from a sit-down protest in Athens Thursday.

Swinger sentenced to prison in China

A college professor accused of organizing a swingers club and holding private orgies in China was sentenced to 3½ years in prison, officials said, in a case that touched off national debate about sexual freedom.

Ma Yaohai, 53, was convicted and sentenced on charges of group licentiousness for participating in group sex parties, said an official from the Qinhuai District Court in southeastern Nanjing.

The official, who declined to give his name, refused to answer further questions.

Ma, along with 21 other people, was arrested and charged last year — the first time anyone has been charged under a 1997 law in a case that has snagged huge public interest with its titillating details. It also generated debate about sexual freedom in a nation trying to reshape its own modern morality.

Ma's attorney said his client, who was the only one to plead innocent, plans to appeal the verdict.

"It's definitely not a fair case. It's not based on the law ... We can understand the reason behind it, but we can't accept it," he said.

Three of the other defendants were acquitted with no penalties because they turned themselves in, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, while the remaining 18 received jail sentences up to 2½ years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girl in 'sexting' case sues school board

PENNSYLVANIA A school district that was at the centre of a highly publicized "sexting" case was sued Thursday by a teenager who claims her principal confiscated her cellphone, found nude images she had taken of herself and turned it over to prosecutors.

The principal of the Tunkhannock Area High School illegally searched the 17-year-old's phone in January 2009, even though she intended the racy photos to be "seen only herself and, perhaps, her long-time boyfriend," according to the federal lawsuit.

It says the principal gave the phone to George Skumanick Jr., at the time the Wyoming County district attorney, who threatened to file felony child pornography charges against the girl unless she took a class on sexual violence.

The district was at the centre of America's first criminal case involving sexting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

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Comment

Transit access grounded

UrbanCompass

Janice Paskey

metronews.ca/paskey

Remember Imagine Calgary? That was the multimillion-dollar 18,000-Calgarian consultation to come up with a blueprint for our future.

Its transportation strategy No. 1: "Encourage increased use of transit."

So imagine this. When the Calgary Airport shuts down Barlow Trail for a new runway next year, there will be no public transit to the main airport terminal.

Quite possibly, Calgary is the only airport in the western world without a transit link.

Currently, the Calgary airport is served by a sole transit bus — No. 57 — and its painfully circuitous route there and back.

Who uses that bus? It's 80 per cent airport employees, and most are from the northeast, says Calgary Transit. Some 400 people per day travel on the No. 57.

As my Mount Royal colleague Naheed Nenshi points out in more delicate terms, the northeast is about to get screwed.

But so are we all. Consider that 12 million people fly in and out of the Calgary airport each year. A lot.

Yes, I've taken the No. 57 bus. It was a social experiment since I befriended a blind man on a flight and was curious how he and his seeing eye dog would get to Kensington. It took 1½ hours to reach that inner city neighbourhood.

Calgary Transit says travellers aren't interested in taking transit to the airport.

It questions whether at least 25 people per hour would take the airport bus.

That's the minimum threshold.

Try us, CT, on a more direct route downtown. Maybe an LRT link. There's no plans to put the northeast extension to the airport.

Yes, Calgary Transit is under pressure.

It needs to provide service to new communities.

As well, its hours of service are being cut.

For now, its best airport transit idea is to run a bus from the airport down Centre Street into downtown and back.

It's estimated that ride would take 30 minutes.

That sounds like a good idea.

Calgary Transit needs to be supported to make airport transit as direct as possible.

If we have money for all the road work that will divert traffic around the airport, we must have money for public transit.

Imagine Calgary. We've increased car and taxi travel, rather than reduce it.

Janice Paskey teaches at Mount Royal University and can be reached at janice.paskey@gmail.com

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

Astronaut gives 'Isaac Newton' cosmic view of the Earth

Sir Isaac Newton is getting the royal treatment in space, thanks to the British-born astronaut who carried up a picture of the 17th-century scientist and a chip from his famous apple tree.

Atlantis astronaut Piers Sellers said Thursday that he placed Newton's picture in the glassed-in dome of the International Space Station — the best seat in the gravity-less house. The views of Earth are stupendous from there.

"Sir Isaac absolutely loved it, I've got to tell you," Sellers said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We had him in the window, and he got to watch his little wood chip float by and ponder the laws of gravitation and everything, so I think it was a treat for him."

The Royal Society of London provided Sellers with the 10-centimetre sliver of wood, which he took with him into orbit aboard the shuttle.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NE053G310 © 2010. Sears Canada Inc.

U.K.'s Royal Mail for sale?

Britain's new government plans to partially privatize the country's struggling mail delivery service, the Royal Mail. A document released Thursday says the coalition government plans to seek "an injection of private capital" into the government-run company. But it doesn't say how much of the mail group will be up for sale. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

We can't escape European crisis

ECONOMY If it's Europe that sneezes, why does Canada still catch a cold?

Canada's economy may be roaring now, but its longer-term prospects are being turned topsy-turvy by a localized credit crisis in Europe, economists say.

The end of month gross domestic product release is widely expected to show Canada enjoying an economic resurgence the rest of the industrialized world only dreams of, with the second consecutive quarter of five and five-plus percentage growth.

But markets hardly noticed. The attention was squarely fixated on Greece and other European problems Thursday as investors saw an increasingly risky future.

The disconnect reminded economists of the Asian financial crisis of a dozen years ago. Commodities fell and the loonie caught a downdraft that took it all the way down to the 62-cent level. But analysts don't believe the Greek crisis and the contagion effect will be as dramatic this time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wild ride

- The loonie has been living up to its name recently, swooping crazily from just above parity with the U.S. greenback to well below. Its latest move was a 2.12-cent retreat yesterday, taking it down to 93.65 cents US.

Debts keep rising despite best efforts

FINANCE Getting out of debt appears to be more difficult than many Canadian homeowners imagine.

Only seven per cent of 1,000 respondents to a Canadian online survey last month said they had paid down their debt over the past year by more than expected.

Another 19 per cent said they had reduced their debt — but by less than anticipated.

In contrast, 27 per cent of the respondents said their debt had increased over the past year and 17 per cent saw no change.

The survey was conducted April 16 to 23 for Manulife Bank, a subsidiary of Manulife Financial Corp.

The report focused on what could be described as middle-income, middle-aged homeowners — people aged 30 to 55 with at least $50,000 of household income.

About one-third of those surveyed ranked being debt-free as their top financial priority and another 36 per cent ranked it No. 8 or No. 9 on a 10-point scale. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RBC lowers mortgage rates

RATES Canada's largest bank is lowering the rate for its five-year mortgages, the second reduction this month.

RBC Royal Bank says the posted rate for five-year mortgages will be reduced by about one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.99 per cent, effective today.

That rate started the month at 6.25 per cent but was lowered by 15 basis points on May 11 along with a range of other rate cuts.

Prior to this month, Canadian mortgage rates had been on the rise. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sony CEO Howard Stringer, left, and Intel CEO Paul Otellini smiles during a Google TV announcement at the Google conference in San Francisco Thursday.

Google plans 'smart' TVs

Google Inc. believes it has come up with the technology to unite web surfing with channel surfing on televisions.

To reach the long-elusive goal, Google has joined forces with Sony Corp., Intel Corp. and Logitech International. The companies unveiled their much-anticipated plan for a "smart" TV on Thursday.

The TVs are expected to go on sale in the fall. Pricing wasn't immediately announced.

Google wants to turn televisions into giant monitors for web surfing so it can make more money selling ads.

Other companies have tried to turn televisions into Internet gateways with little success during the past decade.

But Google and its partners believe they have developed a system that will make Internet TV simpler and more appealing.

Consumers who already have splurged on flat-panel TVs will be able to plug in to the new technology by buying a set-top box made by Logitech or a Blu-ray player from Sony.

Sony will make the TVs, giving it a new product that could stand out from other flat-panel TVs on the market. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Economic recovery kickstarts recreational property sales

Re/Max says that nearly 80 per cent of the areas it surveyed reported an increase in the number of recreational properties sold in the first three months of 2010. The company says sales have been kick-started by several factors, such as the unexpected strength of Canada's economic recovery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Attempts to kill reform bill 'have failed': Obama

REGULATION President Barack Obama says U.S. financial industry lobbyists have failed in their attempt to block a major Wall Street reform bill from coming to a vote.

Speaking at the White House, Obama heralded a breakthrough for his domestic agenda as the Senate cleared the way for final passage of the financial regulation bill. The president said there is more work ahead, but that he will ensure the final bill will be effective and responsive.

Obama said lobbyists tried to kill the bill, and then water it down, but those efforts "have failed." The bill calls for new ways to watch for risks in the financial system and makes it easier to liquidate large financial firms that are failing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

GAS PRICES The National Energy Board is predicting retail gas prices this summer will average between 95 cents and $1.10 a litre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No more clowning around?

Retire Ronald McDonald? No way.

That was McDonald's CEO Jim Skinner's message to critics who say the character promotes unhealthy eating and should go the way of the Marlboro Man and Joe Camel.

"He is a force for good," Skinner told a room full of shareholders at the company's headquarters Thursday.

He added that the nearly 50-year-old clown is an ambassador for the McDonald's brand and its Ronald McDonald House Charities. "He communicates effectively with children and families around balanced, active lifestyles. He does not hawk food."

ALEX GARCIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jamie Gordon, a Corporate Accountability International staff member, collects signatures in Chicago on Thursday.

Shareholders applauded Skinner and booed when representatives of advocacy group Corporate Accountability International requested that the icon be shelved — for good.

"Ronald McDonald is a pied piper drawing youngsters all over the world to food that is high in fat, sodium and calories," said Alfred David Klinger, a retired Chicago physician who volunteers with the organization.

The Boston organization, which calls itself a nonprofit corporate watchdog, has spent the past two months mounting a "Retire Ronald" campaign. So far it has received support from about 10,000 people, said senior organizer Deborah Lapidus. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Renegade Petroleum acquires Saskatchewan oil assets for $20.5 million
Renegade Petroleum Ltd. says it has acquired oil assets in its core area of southeastern Saskatchewan from an unnamed private company for $20.5 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zephyr attracts wind energy players

TransCanada Corp. has completed an "open season" and signed agreements with wind-power producers for the transmission of 3,000 megawatts of green energy from Wyoming to markets in the U.S. Southwestern markets.

Signing onto the Zephyr Power Transmission project are Pathfinder Renewable Wind Energy LLC, Horizon Wind Energy LLC, and BP Wind Energy NA Inc.

Zephyr

- Zephyr is a $3-billion US project that would move 3,000 megawatts of wind-generated electricity along a 1,600-kilometre, 500-kilovolt transmission line from Wyoming to Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix and Southwest energy markets.

"These precedent agreements are a clear indication of wind developer support for significant export transmission capacity for renewable energy out of Wyoming into the southwest markets," said Hal Kvisle, TransCanada's president and chief executive officer.

He added that support from key markets and a "positive regulatory environment" are required before TransCanada chooses sites and seeks permits required to build the project.

TransCanada originated as a pipeline company and has expanded over the years into other energy infrastructure, including electrical power generation.

An open season is a six-month period of time to receive public comments and determine if a project has customers willing to make the required large financial commitments.

Should Zephyr proceed to construction, major capital spending would start in late 2013 with a commercial operations targeted to begin in late 2015 or early 2016.

TransCanada said Zephyr would significantly contribute to economic development in the western states.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

China deal could be good for Saskatchewan: Analyst

DEMAND China is going to explore oil, natural gas and carbon capture in Saskatchewan as the country looks to meet what analysts call an "absolutely enormous" demand for energy.

China National Petroleum Corp. signed a memorandum of understanding this week with the Saskatchewan government to explore investment opportunities in the province. Analyst John Stephenson with First Asset Funds said the MOU is no surprise given China's needs.

"China is growing very quickly. It's industrializing extremely fast. The growth rate ranges anywhere from 12 per cent to maybe as low as 10 so it's enormous," Stephenson said from his Toronto office.

"In essence what they're trying to do is to secure resources for the future."

Stephenson said the MOU is a good thing for Saskatchewan.

China could bring deep pockets to developing the oil sands or other technology in the province. Saskatchewan has been a leader in carbon capture which could help China deal with greenhouse gas emissions from its coal-fired power plants.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

ABITIBIBOWATER Insolvent newsprint giant AbitibiBowater's first-quarter loss more than doubled to $500 million US as it felt the effects of a stronger Canadian currency. The Montreal-based company, which reports in U.S. dollars, lost $8.68 per share for the period ended March 31.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Respect our laws, Germany tells Google

Germany's foreign minister has warned Google co-founder Larry Page to respect the nation's data protection laws in an escalating dispute over the U.S. Internet giant's Street View mapping program. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Do cheaters prosper?

Bonuses may encourage lying, study finds

When it comes to encouraging extra effort on the job, offering a bonus would seem like just the ticket to help ramp up productivity.

But could dangling the carrot of a cash incentive lead to people telling white lies in a bid to reach their target — and net a little more dough? New research suggests individuals may be encouraged to cheat to help assure they'll land a bonus.

A trio of researchers from the University of Guelph and Ryerson University conducted the study published in the B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy.

It's part of a broader project looking at the effects of different forms of compensation not just on cheating and misrepresentation of behaviour but also on productivity.

Researchers aimed to compare levels of cheating by using three different compensation systems: Bonus; piece-rate; and tournament.

Findings

Researchers found that those rewarded in the bonus system were more likely to cheat. What's more, the closer they were to reaching the nine-word target, the greater the chance they would exaggerate the scores.

In the bonus system, employees are compensated if they reach a target. With piece-rate, workers are rewarded for each completed task — the more productive the employee, the more they earn. With a tournament system, only those with the highest productivity receive the extra cash.

"All three of those situations give people incentives to cheat because if they do cheat, they're going to make more money," said University of Guelph economics professor Bram Cadsby, who co-authored the study.

"The idea was to look at these three different types of pay-per-performance and see whether one of them seemed to encourage people to cheat more than the others."

Canadian university undergrads were given the task of taking seven letters and making as many words as possible in one minute.

All participants were paid $3 for word-checking. In the target system, they received an additional $3.60 for each of the seven rounds where they created nine or more words.

Under piece-rate, they earned 40 cents for each word created. In the tournament system, they pocketed $3.60 for each of the seven rounds their performance ranked at or above the 85th percentile relative to other participants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nova Scotia **Something fishy's going on**

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fishing boats loaded with lobster traps head from the harbour in West Dover, N.S. A new study suggests that measures meant to curb illegal fishing around the world are doing little to crack down on a lucrative practice that scientists say is gutting already depleted stocks.

Agents bust mob's fake iPhone network

CRIME Neapolitan mobsters have added another application of sorts to their flourishing trafficking in Chinese-made fakes — phoney iPhones, along with counterfeit name-brand drills, chain saws and other consumer goods, Italian customs agents said Thursday as they announced they had broken up an alleged European sales network.

Besides the phoney iPhones, fake labels included such well-known brands as Bosch, Hitachi and Honda, police said.

Naples-based paramilitary tax and customs agents said police in 10 other European nations were involved in the yearlong probe, including in Spain, where a warehouse of fake consumer goods was found; Germany, where two arrests were made; along with Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

LABOUR The union representing British Airways cabin crews has won an appeal against a legal block on its planned strikes. Thursday's decision by the Court of Appeal means the Unite union can stage a lengthy walkout in the coming weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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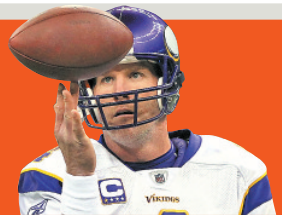
Baseball players warned about border

The baseball players' association has warned members with criminal convictions or arrests to contact the union before trying to enter Canada. Doyle Pryor, a union assistant general counsel, sent a memo to agents Thursday titled "immigration problems for players entering Canada." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Favre hints at return

Brett Favre, left, says he still isn't sure what he's doing next season, but he may have given some indication after visiting with the Southern Miss baseball team. The Minnesota Vikings quarterback told the Golden Eagles on Thursday that if they can make it back to the College World Series for the second straight year, he will return for one more season in the NFL. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Russians knock Canadians out of contention

IIHF

Russia 5 Canada 2

HOCKEY A forgettable IIHF World Hockey Championship for Canada ended with a crushing 5-2 quarter-final loss to Russia Thursday.

It's the third straight year Russia ended Canada's gold-medal hopes at the tournament and this loss came a long way from the final. A young Canadian squad dropped four of its final five games and failed to get past the quarter-finals for the first time since 2002.

"You want to win and it's disappointing when you don't," said forward Steven Stamkos. "It's a bitter taste."

Evgeni Malkin, with two, Maxim Afinogenov, Pavel Datsyuk and Sergei Fedorov — all Olympians — scored goals for Russia (7-0), which extended its world championship winning streak to 26 games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

NBA Mark Cuban is no stranger to bold statements, and the Dallas Mavericks owner has expressed his interest in acquiring soon-to-be free agent LeBron James. The outspoken billionaire, in an interview this week with CNNMoney.com, said "anybody" would be interested in James.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS

Seattle 4 Toronto 3
Detroit 5 Oakland 2
Kansas City 9 Cleveland 3
Tampa Bay 8 N.Y. Yankees 6
Boston 6 Minnesota 2
Baltimore at Texas
L.A. Angels at Chicago White Sox

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS

Atlanta 10 Cincinnati 9
Philadelphia 5 Chicago Cubs 4
St. Louis 4 Florida 2
Milwaukee 4 Pittsburgh 3
N.Y. Mets 10 Washington 7
Colorado 4 Houston 0
San Francisco at Arizona
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers

NHL PLAYOFFS

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 5 Philadelphia 1 (Flyers lead series 2-1)

IIHF HOCKEY

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Russia 5 CANADA 2
Czech Republic 2 Finland 1 (SO)
Sweden 4 Denmark 2
Germany 1 Switzerland 0

For more results visit metronews.ca/sports

Habs smash shutout streak

(Flyers lead series 2-1)

Flyers 1 Canadiens 5

Michael Cammalleri and Tom Pyatt scored in the first period to end Michael Leighton's two-game shutout string as the Montreal Canadiens defeated the Flyers 5-1 in NHL Eastern Conference final action Thursday night.

Montreal's third line shone as Pyatt and Dominic Moore both scored and Maxim Lapierre had an assist, and the Canadiens served notice they won't fade away meekly after series-opening losses of 6-0 and 3-0 in Philadelphia.

Brian Gionta and Marc-Andre Bergeron also scored as the Canadiens ended the Flyers' six-game winning streak and handed Leighton his first loss in five post-season starts.

DAVE SANDFORD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal Canadiens Tomas Plekanec celebrates his teammate Mike Cammalleri's first goal on Philadelphia Flyers goalie Michael Leighton on Thursday in Montreal. The Canadiens won 5-1.

Simon Gagne broke Jaroslav Halak's shutout bid in the third period with his seventh goal in as many games since returning from a toe injury. Montreal outshot Philadelphia 38-26.

The Flyers lead the best-of-seven series 2-1 with Game 4 set for Saturday afternoon at the Bell Centre.

Leighton saw his shutout run end when Cammalleri scored his 13th of the playoffs at 7:05 of the first period.

"It was nice to get one," Cammalleri said. "We just tried to get the puck past their defence and go to the net and the puck jumped out to me."

His shutout streak covered 172:55, second-longest in Flyers history behind Brian Boucher's 184:45 in 2000.

Halak made sharp saves early and then had little work as the Canadiens used their speed to outhustle the dazed-looking Flyers, who committed numerous turnovers and spent much of the game standing around watching.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA suspends referee

Referee Joe DeRosa has been suspended without pay for throwing a ball at a fan during halftime of an NBA playoff game in Orlando. DeRosa will miss the next game he would have been scheduled to work. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Something to talk about

Hitmen's Shattock says his team is ready to grab some attention

With a television camera rolling on him in the mixed zone where players mingle with the media, Tyler Shattock did his best to respond to yet another request to extol the virtues of the Windsor Spitfires, an opponent he had already spent plenty of time discussing at the Master-Card Memorial Cup.

He was diplomatic and, as a member of the Calgary Hitmen, obviously displeased.

"Ah, I'm getting pretty sick of it," Shattock said after the camera disappeared. "Everyone likes to talk about them because they're defending champions, but I think we're going to give some people some things to talk about."

The Spitfires have been the dominant point of discussion at the tournament this week, led by the star power of forward Taylor Hall and an impressive run of three consecutive wins that clinched a direct berth into Sunday's championship final. They romped to a win over the Hitmen in the round robin, leaving a bitter taste in the mouths of their western rivals.

Calgary will face the Brandon Wheat Kings for a shot at redemption on Friday, when the two teams square off in the semifinal. The Hitmen beat the Wheat Kings 5-1 on Wednesday, and will welcome injured forward Brandon Kozun back to the lineup for the rematch as another shot at Windsor hangs in the balance.

"We can't look past Brandon," Kozun said. "We know it's going to be a hard game. We're going to focus on that one and then, hopefully, it goes our way and we can start focusing on the next one."

Calgary has eliminated Brandon from the WHL playoffs three times in the last six years, including a five-game win in the third round last month. The Hitmen scored five times in the first period of their meeting on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary Hitman Tyler Shattock celebrates his game-winning goal during third period Memorial Cup action against the Moncton Wildcats in Brandon, Manitoba, on May 15.

Spitfire-power

- Windsor has out-scored its opponents 19-8 at the Memorial Cup. Taylor Hall is the tournament's leading goal-scorer, with four, and has appeared on highlight reels across Canada with a goal he scored in the opener against Brandon.

IIHF president apologizes to Crosby's agent over article

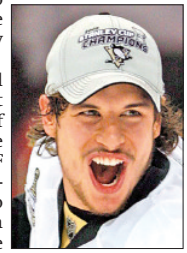
HOCKEY The president of the International Ice Hockey Federation has called Sidney Crosby's agent to apologize for the Olympic hero's inclusion in an IIHF story that criticized players who decline to take part in the world hockey championship.

Rene Fasel spoke with agent Pat Brisson of CAA Sports one day after the IIHF posted a story titled Saying No to Your Country on its website. The story, written by IIHF communications director Szymon Szemberg, said players who chose not to participate were turning "their backs not only on the team and its fans but also to the system which developed them and made them rich and famous."

It named Crosby and other players directly.

"I sincerely believe that Rene Fasel was sorry for the inappropriate comments made towards Sidney and the other players," Brisson told The Canadian Press.

Hockey Canada president Bob Nicholson discussed the issue with Fasel on Thursday, calling it a "very positive meeting."



Sidney Crosby

He said Fasel apologized for "the tone" of the article and the way it referred to Crosby.

Nicholson also spoke to NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, who was among those irked by the tone of the story.

"We thought the IIHF comments were inappropriate and showed a lack of respect for our game and our players," Bettman said in a statement.

Nicholson was also offended.

"We're proud of who is putting on our jersey. ... We're really proud of what we've done over the last number of years at world championships."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Maradona apologizes for injuring cameraman

Argentina coach Diego Maradona said he's sorry for driving over the foot of a cameraman at the team's training ground on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. A day after the incident, Maradona explained Thursday that as he neared the entrance to the gated complex, his Mini was surrounded by photographers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Armstrong denies doping accusations

Disgraced U.S. cyclist Floyd Landis revealed new cheating allegations in a series of messages to sponsors and officials, alleging that former teammate Lance Armstrong not only joined him in doping but taught others how to beat the system and paid an official to keep a failed test quiet.

With the international cycling season in full swing, Landis admitted for the first time what had long been suspected — he was guilty of doping for several years before being stripped of his 2006 Tour de France title.

His fresh accusations, contained in e-mails sent last month, prompted Armstrong to hold an impromptu press conference Thursday at the Tour of California.

"If you said, 'Give me one word to sum this all up,' credibility," the seven-time Tour de France winner said. "Floyd lost his credibility a long time ago."

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cyclist Lance Armstrong bleeds from a cut under his eye after crashing during the Tour of California in the outskirts of Visalia, Calif., Thursday.

"We have nothing to hide. We have nothing to run from," said Armstrong, who later quit the race to go to a hospital for X-rays after crashing just outside of Visalia, Calif. Team spokesman Philippe Maertens told The Associated Press that Armstrong got stitches in the left elbow and under the left eye.

Though Landis lost his title, he denied cheating until now, and his recent e-mails detail his blood doping.

"I want to clear my conscience," Landis told ESPN.com. "I don't want to be part of the problem any more."

He claims Armstrong and longtime coach Johan Bruyneel paid an International Cycling Union official to cover up a test in 2002 after Armstrong purportedly tested positive for the blood-boosting drug EPO.

The UCI, however, denied changing or concealing a positive test result.

In an e-mail Landis sent to USA Cycling chief Steve Johnson, he said Armstrong's positive EPO test was in 2002, around the time he won the Tour de Suisse. Armstrong won the Tour de Suisse in 2001 and did not compete in 2002.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Happy ending to a broken heart

The story was buried in the sports pages. Zac Herold, a 17-year-old professional soccer prospect, forced to end his dream because of a heart condition that threatens his life if he continues to compete.

A doctor with Toronto FC discovered Herold's plight after the native of Port St. Lucie, Fla., reported to training camp as a top draft pick. The diagnosis means a future on the sidelines … but a future, nonetheless.

Maybe it's a hopeful sign that somewhere out there, someone is watching over athletes and protecting them from the damage sport can do.

Encouraging news like this is rare in times when players are treated as commodities instead of human beings.

Herold's situation is overshadowed by a litany of malpractice that occurs daily in high performance athletics — professional and amateur. The act of enjoying sport has frequently been replaced by a win-at-all-costs mentality.

The sports pages are frequently filled with bad news: We read of a notorious junior hockey coach who repeatedly sexually assaulted his players and ruined their lives.

We are stunned by the beating of a minor soccer parent in Edmonton at the hands of a player from the opposing team. The attack was apparently motivated by racial tensions.

Some of us are conflicted when learning of the death of a talented track and field mentor who advised his runners to take steroids so they wouldn't be left behind.

Others are appalled that a Toronto sports doctor allegedly prescribed human growth hormone to NFL players.

Zac Herold

Many more are concerned that young athletes in various team sports are being pressured to play despite concussions, which have become epidemic.

Herold's career has been cut short, but his situation should enlighten us.

Thank heavens someone is watching over him — a supportive family, a wise physician and a professional club that has things in perspective.

When Toronto FC honours Herold at BMO Field on Saturday, they'll be making a statement.

Sport is not nearly as precious as life.

And sometimes, happy endings can be found in broken hearts.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Russian Olympic chairman wants chess on program

The new chairman of Russia's Olympic committee says he will push to add chess to the Olympic program. Alexander Zhukov says "regrettably, the International Olympic Committee doesn't want to add that sport to the Olympic program, but we will insist on that." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free-agent anticipation casts shadow on playoffs

Doc Rivers knows his Boston Celtics aren't the NBA's biggest story right now.

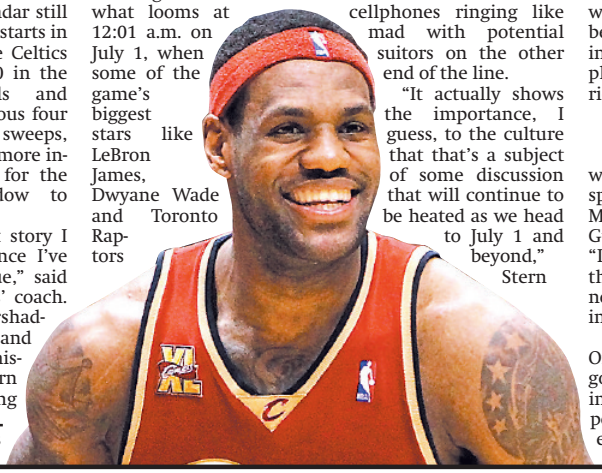
Take a back seat, Celtics, despite being on the cusp of another trip to the NBA final. Same for you, defending champ Lakers. The Magic and Suns, well, they're basketball afterthoughts right now as well.

Unless you're in Los Angeles, Boston, Orlando or Phoenix, the NBA's final four might almost be like a forgotten four.

Welcome to LeBron Watch 2010, simultaneously going on alongside D-Wade Watch, Chris Bosh Watch ... oh, yeah, and sweeps month in NBA playoffs. The calendar still says May, the final starts in June, yet with the Celtics and Lakers up 2-0 in the conference finals and three of the previous four series ending in sweeps, there seems to be more interest in waiting for the free-agency window to open.

"It's the biggest story I can remember since I've been in the league," said Rivers, the Celtics' coach.

Indeed, it overshadows all right now, and even NBA commissioner David Stern isn't downplaying the significance of what looms at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, when some of the game's biggest stars like LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Toronto Raptors star Bosh will have their cellphones ringing like mad with potential suitors on the other end of the line.



LeBron James

"It actually shows the importance, I guess, to the culture that that's a subject of some discussion that will continue to be heated as we head to July 1 and beyond," Stern said. "That just shows what a fixture the NBA has become, and that the comings and goings of our players have become stories unto themselves."

Not just stories.

They're the story.

"It's overshadowing world hunger and the oil spill and everything else," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said sarcastically. "It's the biggest story in the United States right now — where LeBron is going to play.

"You know, health care? Oil spill? But LeBron, we gotta know where he's going to play. I guess a lot of people must be very interested in it."

Face it, many of the playoff series so far haven't exactly been scintillating battles — half of the 12 series completed so far have ended in either four or five games. There's been only one Game 7, and the way things look right now, the conference finals could end fairly quickly on both coasts. If both end in sweeps, there will be nine off days before the finals open June 3. And that's another problem: Fast-ending series have given some teams long breaks between rounds, lulls that just let all the storylines surrounding free agency pick up even more steam. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies Pg 24

Carrie and the girls are back, still best friends, and taking on the Middle East in Sex and the City 2.

Movies Pg 25

Shrek Forever After almost captures magic of the first.

Music Pg 29

Band of Horses singer needs his seclusion when writing.

Television Pg 30

After ditching The Bachelor, she's now The Bachelorette.

At a glance
Shrek Forever After ●●●½, MacGruber ●●●½, Kites ●●●½, The Cry of The Owl ●●½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

The girls are back and loving it

Jessica Parker weighs in on joys of best friends forever

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

On the web

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Carrie, played by Sarah Jessica Parker, heads to the Middle East in Sex and the City 2.

Movie **feature**

Sex and the City 2 opens next week

It often takes a vacation to gain a little perspective on everyday problems.

And for Carrie Bradshaw — who hightails it out of town with her three best friends in Sex and the City 2 for an ultra luxe getaway to Abu Dhabi — the time away is spent reflecting on her recent nuptials to Mr. Big.

"There was a wedding, and now there has to be a marriage," explains Sarah Jessica Parker, who portrays the iconic fashionista.

The actress (in Elie Saab Couture), along with castmates Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis, and Cynthia Nixon, is perched between glittery Louboutins and Manolo Blahniks in the shoe salon of Bergdorf Goodman for the film's press conference.

"Where Carrie finds herself at the top of the movie is starting, as she typically does, to ask herself about the environment in which she currently lives. Those questions and the theme of the movie for all of us, is tradition. Why do we run toward it? Why do we push it away, and why, when we so willingly want to commit to the institution of marriage, do we find ourselves squirming and asking questions? How do we define tradition for ourselves?" wonders the actress aloud.

And then, she adds with a smile, "What better place to ask these questions than the Middle East?"

Though vacations with girlfriends can also mean nasty fights (have you been following The Real Housewives of New York?), Parker says that the bond these characters share, in addition to being the hallmark of the blockbuster, is what she finds most powerful.

"In an era where women are really unkind to one and other, and call each other horrible names, and there's vernacular that our ears have adapted to, which I find really objectionable, I really really love how these women love each other. How decent and honorable they are to one another," she says.

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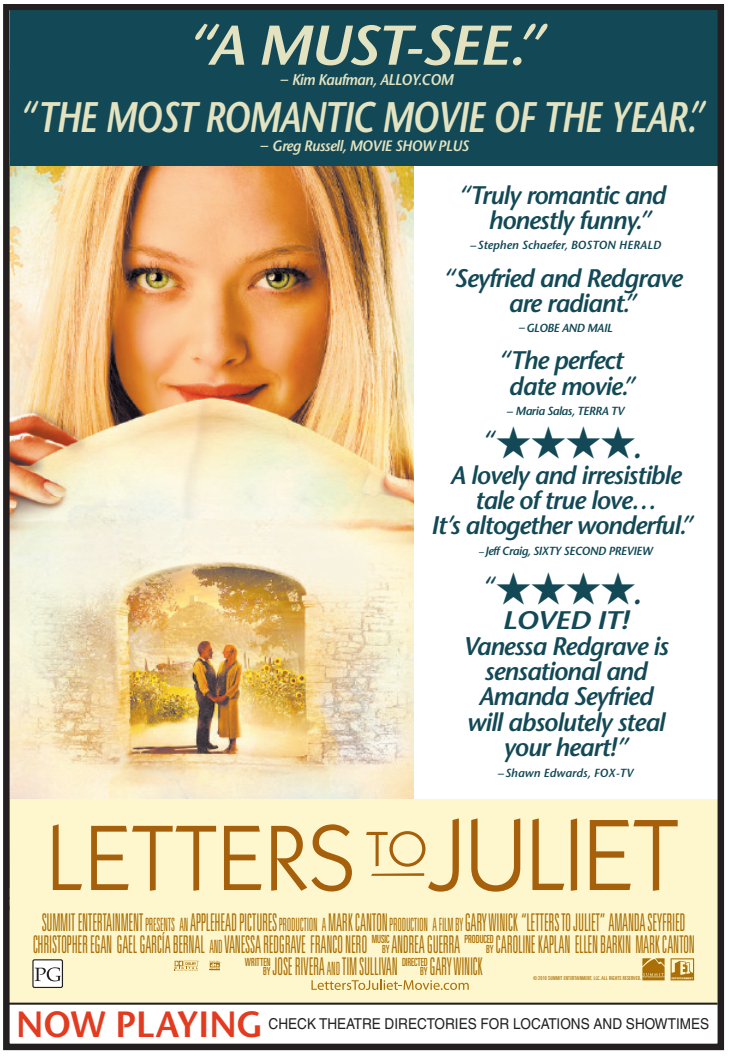


The Cullen clan returning
The entire Cullen clan has signed up for the last Twilight adaptation, Breaking Dawn. Yes, Peter Facinelli, Elizabeth Reaser, Nikki Reed, Kellan Lutz, Jackson Rathbone and Ashley Greene will all return for more bad hair days in the fourth story. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Shrek has the last laugh

Shrek **Forever After**

Director: Mike Mitchell
Stars: Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz,
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Rumpelstiltskin has a showdown with everyone's favourite ogre in Shrek Forever After.

Whether that new title is a promise or a simple marketing ploy, the fourth Shrek film at least does a good job of putting a positive punctuation mark on a series that's seen a rapid decline in quality over the course of the previous three instalments.

The latest — and supposedly last — makes a valiant effort of recapturing the tone and spirit of the original Shrek, with more wiseacre takes on fairy tale tropes and fewer obnoxious pop culture references.

Tossing on a loose-fitting It's a Wonderful Life coat, the film picks up with Shrek (Mike Myers), Fiona (Cameron Diaz) and company enjoying their "happily ever after," although the ogre himself isn't so happy, longing for the days where villagers ran from him in fear instead of gawking from tour buses.

He signs a foolish deal with Rumpelstiltskin (voiced by DreamWorks story head Walt Dohrn), a pint-sized power-mad ginger who at one point had the keys to the kingdom in his grasp before Shrek went and ruined his plans by rescuing Fiona.

Shrek is then plunged into a world where Rumpelstiltskin is king, he's still a swamp-dwelling menace and none of his friends know him. The setup and plot are familiar and predictable, but one thing the Shrek team does well — when they're firing on all cylinders — is make the familiar and predictable fun and exciting nonetheless. The animation is of course pristine, with some particularly thrilling battle and chase sequences tossed in.

While Shrek frets through his existential crisis, the supporting cast provides some of the best laughs, as usual, with some new voices (Jon Hamm and Jane Lynch as members of the ogre resistance) along with the old. Eddie Murphy's Donkey and Antonio Banderas' Puss in Boots wage a fierce battle over who gets to the steal the show, but Banderas has the obvious edge, what with the Puss in Boots movie in development next.

• For a trailer of Shrek Forever After, photos and screen times., visit metronews.ca/movies

Let down by heroine

The Cry of **The Owl**

Director: Jamie Thraves
Stars: Paddy Considine, Julia Stiles
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕½

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

Julia Stiles in The Cry Of The Owl.

REVIEW At her best, American novelist Patricia Highsmith located the sweet spot between potboiler suspense tactics and comic detachment. Novels like Strangers on a Train and The Talented Mr. Ripley became high water marks for the literary thriller, while inspiring impressive film adaptations.

Music-video veteran Jamie Thraves' take on Highsmith's more obscure 1962 novel The Cry of the Owl is notable for hewing more closely to its source material, retaining not only the basic set-up — a lonely man spends his nights spying on a young woman who lives alone at the edge of the woods — but also most of the elaborately plotted follow-through.

Paddy Considine was a good choice for the role of Robert Forster, a man so dissatisfied in his own skin that even his attempts at self-deprecating humour come off as scarily hollow. Considine does a good job approximating discomfort, but he's let down by his co-star. In a part that requires the delicate modulation of emotion, Julia Stiles is merely blank.

The tonal mismatch between the two lead performances unbalances the film, although Thraves does manage some lingeringly odd images — like a dog's grotesque farewell to its master — in between a lot of direct-to-DVD quality sequences.

Fox out of Transformers 3

Megan Fox, who made her name as Shia LaBeouf's love interest in the first two Transformers movies, has been dropped from the third. No further details were given about who would replace the 24-year-old actress. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

SNL sketch strikes gold

MacGruber

Director: Jorma Taccone
Stars: Will Forte, Kirsten Wiig, Ryan Phillipe
Classification: 18A
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Ryan Phillipe, left, and Will Forte star in MacGruber.

In general Saturday Night Live movies aren't very good.

Sure, there are exceptions like The Blues Brothers, but for the most part the sketch-to-screen adaptations go a little bit more like Coneheads.

It's been a decade since Lorne Michaels last ushered one of his popular sketches into movie theaters and fortunately it's been worth the wait. MacGruber may have started as a 90-second joke, but now it's a fully realized and gleefully offensive spoof/homage of delightfully dumb action movies. There are no grating catchphrases, distracting comedian cameos, or Xeroxed TV gags here. Had the original SNL sketches not existed, MacGruber could stand on it's own as a damn entertaining comedy.

If you're not familiar with Will Forte's MacGruber, he's a special agent in the DIY MacGyver mold. Of course, he's not very good and tends to blow things up. In the film he's given a nemesis who is one typo a way from being unfit to print, Dieter Von Cunth (Val Kilmer). The movie opens with Cunth stealing a missile and soon MacGruber comes out of retirement to stop him alongside a potential love interest (Kristen Wiig) and a young military hotshot (Ryan Phillippe).

It's a plot you've seen many times before, but exaggerated just enough to be hilarious.

Of course, this isn't just some film school satire. It's also filled with enough potty mouth language, bathroom humor, and filthy sight gags to be a solid R-rated comedy. Sure, it doesn't demand much brainpower, but sometimes dumb laughs are enough.

MacGruber shouldn't have been this good. Hopefully it won't be unfairly dismissed as a lazy SNL retread, because it's unlikely that a funnier flick will be released this summer.

• For a MacGruber trailer, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Kites brings wild excess of Bollywood

Kites

Director: Anurag Basu
Stars: Hrithik Roshan, Barbara Mori
Classification: STC
Rating: 🌐🌐½

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

Kites has been conceived and executed as a hybrid of the world's two largest industrial cinemas, filtering over-amped Bollywood melodrama through glossy Hollywood aesthetics.

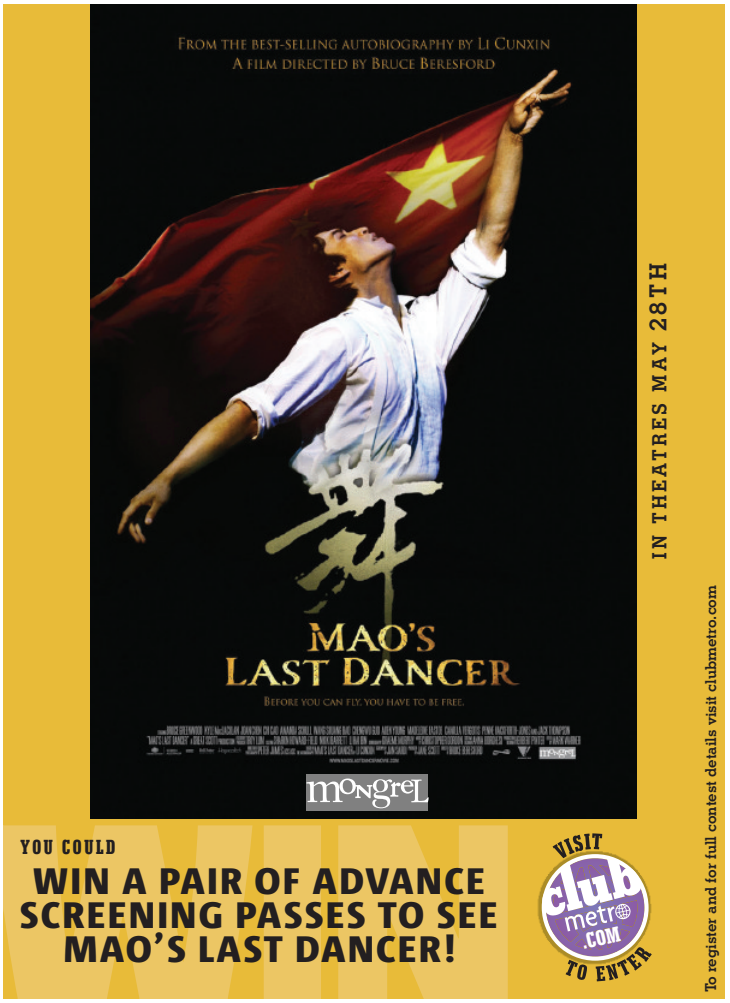
And if that's not high-concept enough for you, the epically scaled film has also been "remixed" by producer Brett Ratner into a 90-minute version for the short-attention span crowd.

Certainly, the 130-minute cut of Kites could stand some trimming, but part of the film's charm is bound up in its wild excess.

The opening scenes glide along on the larger-than-life charm of star Hrithik Roshan as Jay, a Hindi hustler waylaid in Las Vegas whose cash-for-marriage scam gets complicated twice over.

Problem No. 1: He falls in love with the gorgeous Spanish girl (Barbara Mori) who is paying him to get a green card; Problem No. 2: When he pursues her, he discovers she's engaged to be married to the son of a local crime boss, whose daughter has her own designs on him.

It's an amusingly humid quadrangle, but eventually, the film settles into a standard chase-movie mode, with Roshan and Mori recast as the post-globalization equivalents of Bonnie and Clyde, fleeing (with the top down) across the dustier parts of the United States.



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Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAY. 21 TO THURS., MAY. 27. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-6:45-9:40
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55-9:25
Crazy Heart (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-3:40-7:20
Gunless (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:7:10-9:30
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 4:05-9:45
The Last Song (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:50-9:20
The Losers (14A) Fri-Thu 4:15-7:15-9:55
Our Family Wedding (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:05-9:35
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-7
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-7:20-9:50
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:30-8:30
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 1:30

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

The Back-up Plan (PG) Fri-Tue 7:10-9:40 Wed 7:10
Date Night (PG) Fri 12:50-4:10-7:50-10:15 Sat 4:10-7:50-10:15 Sun-Tue 12:50-4:10-7:50-10:15 Wed 12:50-4:10-7:50
How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Wed 11:50-2:35-5:15-7:45-10:05 Thu 11:50-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:05
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:30 Wed 12:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:30 Tue 12:10-1:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Letters to Juliet (PG) Fri-Wed 12:20-3:45-6:50-9:45 Thu 12:20-3:20-6:50-9:40
MacGruber (18A) Fri-Wed 1:15-4:20-7-9:55 Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-9:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Armida Encore (STC) Sat 11
Oceans (G) Fri-Wed 12:10-2:40-5
Robin Hood (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-12:40-3:15-4-6:45-7:20-10-10:25
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Wed 9:30-10:15 No Passes Thu 12-12:30-3:20-3:45-6:40-7-9:55-10:20
Shrek Forever After (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-3:40-7:25-10:20 No Passes Wed 3:40-7:25-10:20 No Passes Thu 1-3:40-7:25-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:30-12-2-2:30-4:40-5:10-7:15-7:40-9:50-10:10 No Passes Thu 11:30-12:05-2-2:30-4:40-5-7:15-7:40-9:50-10:10

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Date Night (PG) Fri 7:20-9:40 Sat-Mon 12:20-3-6:40-9:20 Tue 7:20-9:40
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri 7-10 Sat-Mon 12:40-3:40-7-10 Tue 7-10 Wed 7:10-10 Thu 7:20-10:10
Letters to Juliet (PG) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Mon 12:50-3:20-6:30-9:30 Tue 6:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:40
Robin Hood (14A) Fri 6:50-10:10 Sat-Mon 12:10-3:30-6:50-10:10 Tue-Wed 6:50-10:10 Thu 7:10-10:20
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Wed 9:50 No Passes Thu 6:45-10
Shrek Forever After (PG) No Passes Fri 6:40-9:20 No Passes Sat-Mon 12-2:30-5-7:20-9:40 No Passes Tue 6:40-9:20 No Passes Wed 6:40-9:30 No Passes Thu 6:50-9:30
The Trotsky (14A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Mon 12:30-3:10-7:10-9:50 Tue 7:10-9:50 Wed 10:30 Thu 9:50

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:05-7:10-9:45
The Back-up Plan (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Tue 12:50-3:25-7:40-10:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 12:50-3:25-7:35-10:10
Date Night (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Tue 7:45-10:05 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 1:15-4:05-6:35
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-6:55-9:15
Iron Man 2 (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Tue 11:50-12:55-3:15-3:55-6:45-7:15-9:35-10:10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 12:20-3:15-6:45-7:15-9:35-10:10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 11:50-12:20-3:15-3:55-6:45-7:15-9:35-10:10
Just Wright (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:25-9:55
Kick-Ass (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 2-4:35-7:35-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:15-4-7:05
Letters to Juliet (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:40-3:20-6:50-9:25 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:40-3:20-7:05-9:40
MacGruber (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40-7:30-10
A Nightmare on Elm Street (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:50-4:10-7:50-10:05
Robin Hood (14A) No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12-12:35-3:10-3:45-6:40-7:05-9:55-10:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 12-12:35-3:10-3:45-6:40-7:05-9:55-10:15
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 9-9:40 No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 11:45-12:15-12:45-3:15-3:30-4:15-6:30-6:50-8-9:45-10:05
Shrek Forever After (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Wed 1-3:30-7:20-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Thu 1-3:35-7:20-9:50
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:30-12:30-2-3-4:30-6:40-7-9-9:30

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

Avatar 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Wed 12-3:40-8 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 9:20

Vanessa Redgrave, left, and Amanda Seyfried star in Letters to Juliet.

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Wed 1-3:50-6:50-9:20 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 1:45-4:15-6:50
Iron Man 2 (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Wed 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:30 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:20
Letters to Juliet (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Wed 1:45-4:20-7:20-10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 1:10-3:40-7-9:50
MacGruber (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Wed 2-4:40-7:45-10:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 2-4:35-7:40-10
Robin Hood (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 11:45-12:15-3:15-4-6:40-7-9:50-10:20 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Tue 11:45-12:15-3:15-4-6:40-7-9:50-10:20 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 11:45-12:15-3:15-4-6:40-10:20 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 12:15-4-7:20-10:30
Sex and the City 2 (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 9:45 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Thu 12-1-3:15-4:20-6:45-7:45-10:15
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Wed 12:45-1:15-3:45-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:15-9:45 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Thu 12:45-1:15-3:45-4:10-6:40-7:15-9:15-9:45

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

City Island (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Mon 1-3:20-7-9:20 Tue-Thu 7-9:20
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Sun-Mon 12:30-3:30-7:30 Tue-Thu 7:30

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1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:40-9:40
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-6:45-9:45
Death at a Funeral (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7:05-10:10
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:10
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:50-10
Kites (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:15-6:30-8:30-9:30
The Last Song (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:55-9:50
The Losers (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:10:05
Repo Men (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-9:55

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

The Back-up Plan (PG) Fri-Tue 7:10-9:50
Clash of the Titans (PG) Fri-Sat 11:45-2:15-4:55-7:35-10:10 Sun 11:45-2:15-4:55-10:10 Mon-Wed 11:45-2:15-4:55-7:35-10:10
Date Night (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7:10-9:45
Furry Vengeance (PG) Fri-Wed 12:45-3:45
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:15-4:50-7:25-10:20
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12-12:30-1:15-3-3:45-4:15-7-7:15-7:30-10-10:15-10:30
Just Wright (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:30-6:50-9:50
Letters to Juliet (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:10-7:05-10:05 Thu 4:10-7:05-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
MacGruber (18A) Fri-Tue 11:50-2-4:30-7:10-10:05 Wed 11:50-2-4:30-6:45-10 Thu 11:50-2-4:30-7:10-10:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Armida Encore (STC) Sat 11
A Nightmare on Elm Street (18A) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Wed 1:20-4:20
Robin Hood (14A) Fri-Wed 11:50-12:40-3:15-4:10-6:50-7:20-10-10:30 Thu 11:50-12:40-3:15-4:10-7:20-10-10:30
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Wed 9:30-10:20 No Passes Thu 11:30-12:30-3-3:50-4:30-6:45-7:15-8-10:10-10:40 No Passes Wed 12:01 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Shrek Forever After (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7:15-9:45
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:30-2:30-3-5-5:30-7:30-8-10-10:30
Shrek Forever After: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:30
WWE Over the Limit 2010 (STC) Sun 6

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

The Cry of The Owl (STC) Fri 7 Sat 3:10-7 Sun-Mon 7 Tue 8:50 Wed 7
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Sun 9 Mon 3-9 Tue 4:50 Wed 9
Oceans (G) Fri 5:15 Sat-Mon 1:15-5:15 Tue 7 Wed 5:15
Repo! The Genetic Opera (18A) Sat 11:30
The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls (STC) Thu 7

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

The Back-up Plan (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:10-6:55-9:55 Sun 12:20-3:10-9:55 Mon-Tue 12:20-3:10-6:55-9:55 Wed 12:20-3:10-6:55
Date Night (PG) Fri-Tue 2:30-6:50-9:25 Wed 2:30-6:50
Furry Vengeance (PG) Fri-Wed 11:40
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:50-6:35-9:15
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri-Tue 11:35-12:05-12:45-3:3:30-4-6:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:05-10:40 Wed 11:35-12:05-3-3:30-4-6:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:05-10:40 Thu 11:35-12:05-12:45-3-3:30-4-6:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:05-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Letters to Juliet (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:40-7:20-10:15 Wed 3:40-7:20-10:15 Thu 12:50-3:40-7:20-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
MacGruber (18A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:05-7:05-9:50
A Nightmare on Elm Street (18A) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:25-7:25-10 Wed 11:50-2:25-10 Thu 11:50-2:25-7:25-10
Robin Hood (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-12:15-3:15-3:45-6:45-7:15-10:10-10:40
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Wed 9-9:30 No Passes Thu 11:30-12:20-3-3:50-6:30-7-10-10:30
Shrek Forever After (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-6:40-9:20
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 11:30-12-2:05-2:45-4:30-5:10-7:10-7:55-9:45-10:30 No Passes Sat 11:30-12-2:05-2:50-4:30-5:10-7:10-7:55-9:45-10:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 11:30-12-2:05-2:45-4:30-5:10-7:10-7:55-9:45-10:30
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Chloe (18A) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Mon 2:45-7:15-9:15 Tue-Thu 7:15-9:15
Exit Through the Gift Shop (14A) Fri 4:55-7-9 Sat-Mon 1-3-4:55-7-9 Tue-Thu 4:55-7-9
The Last Station (14A) Fri 4:45 Sat-Mon 12:20-4:45 Tue-Thu 4:45

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Date Night (PG) Fri-Mon 1:05-4:05-7:40-9:50 Tue 5:50-8:20 Wed 5:50
How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Mon 12:25-3-7:05-9:30 Tue-Thu 5:20-7:40
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri-Mon 12:40-1-3:30-4-6:30-7:10-9:20-10:10 Tue 6:05-7:20-8:50 Wed 6:05-7:20 Thu 7:20
Letters to Juliet (PG) Fri-Mon 12:35-3:10-7-9:40 Tue-Thu 5:25-8
MacGruber (18A) Fri-Mon 1:30-4:30-7:55-10:20 Tue-Thu 6:20-8:40
Robin Hood (14A) Fri-Mon 12:30-1:10-3:40-4:10-6:50-7:30-10-10:30 Tue-Thu 6-7:30-9
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Wed 9-9:30 No Passes Thu 8:20 No Passes Thu 5:50-8:50
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:20-1:20-2:40-4:20-5-6:40-7:20-9:10-9:50 No Passes Tue-Thu 5:30-6:10-7:50-8:30

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Music

Band of Horses pick up where they left off

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Toronto

After shooting to fame with 2007's album, Cease To Begin, indie act Band of Horses is back with a new release, Infinite Arms.

If you've ever wondered where Band of Horses' laid back twangy sound comes from, here's your answer — a cottage near Bob Dylan's boyhood home.

Ben Bridwell, the band's lead singer, recorded the group's latest disc, Infinite Arms, near Hibbing, Minn. — less than two hours from the Ontario border. He didn't pick that place to channel Dylan, though, he just wanted to be alone. "I need to know that people can't hear me," he says. "It's embarrassing when I'm screaming my balls off."

That's not the only secluded spot Bridwell has written in — "I've done it in a cabin on a lake, a caboose on an ocean and a cabin in the mountains," he says.

Wherever he writes it seems to be working. The group shot to indie fame in 2007 with the stunning disc Cease To Begin and the new one picks up where that one left off.

For the most part, Infinite Arms sounds a lot like past efforts. Bridwell's smooth, high-pitched vocals, rich Beach Boys-ish harmonies and folk pop sensibility permeates much of the disc. The singer says he can't help it if the new record sounds like his older ones.

"I'm limited in my musical ability," he says. "I started this game late, so it's not hard for me to sound like me."

But there are differences. There's more country twang, the rock songs are louder, and each track is more polished. That could have something to do with the band's new players. The group has grown from a trio to a five-piece over the last couple of years. Unlike on Cease To Begin, almost all the band members contributed to this record.

> **"We finally got talented songwriters so it's a no brainer that I wanted to expand the reach for new dynamics of songwriting."**
> Ben Bridwell

"These guys are bringing stuff to table I wouldn't write," says Bridwell. "We finally got talented songwriters so it's a no brainer that I wanted to expand the reach for new dynamics of songwriting."

It's not just the songwriters that are new, however. For the first time, the band financed and produced this record themselves. It was an expensive undertaking, but Bridwell has had a lot of success licensing songs so he was able to pay for everything.

Going the DIY route gave the band more freedom. It also allowed them to sell their disc to the highest bidder, which turned out to be Fat Possum records, a subsidiary of major label Sony Music.

Jumping to a major shouldn't come as a surprise — other similar sounding acts like Death Cab For Cutie have made the move too.

"There was really no doubt in my mind," he says. "People have been knocking at the door for a while so I had a good feeling we'd get paid back."

So far they're enjoying their new bosses. "It seems exciting to swim in that big pond," he says "I'm not going to be shy, I wouldn't hide it if I was having negative experience, but so far there's been no bullsh—t."

The truth about Bubbles, Toast

SoundCheck

Last week I dipped into my mail bag to mark hitting the 100 column milestone for Metro. Well, the questions keep coming.

Q **Is it true that Bubbles from the Trailer Park Boys used to be in a band?** ***— John, Calgary***

A He was in a Pictou, N.S., band called Sandbox, which released a pretty good record called Bionic in 1996. Propelled by a single called Curious, the album won three East Coast Music Awards and was nominated for a Juno before breaking up.

Q **What's that spoken word song (done in a Cockney accent) from the '70s about the glories of making toast?** ***— Owen, Toronto***

A In 1978, a group called Street Band recorded a single called Hold On which featured a track called Toast on the B-side. The song had been concocted during a gig where they needed to stretch for time. When the moment came to record a single, the band decided to include it as a joke. However, because Britain was in the midst of a bakers' strike when it came out, several BBC DJs decided that Toast was a better bet than Hold On. Street Band was forever branded a novelty group and soon broke up.

Send your questions to alan@exploremusic.com.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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Jesse James comes out of hiding

Jesse James plans to give his first TV interview since his breakup with Sandra Bullock on Nightline, ABC announced. James will discuss his past, his time in rehab and why he cheated on Bullock in an interview slated to air Tuesday. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

Bachelorette wants to focus on love

Ali Fedotowsky ditched The Bachelor last season for her job.

The smiley former Facebook advertising account manager now has a new gig as The Bachelorette. Fedotowsky is the latest leading lady in a long line of single men and woman — 20, to be exact — selected to sift through a stack of suitors in hopes of finding the perfect match on the interconnected, long-running ABC reality dating franchise. Fedotowsky previously chose her career over Jake Pavelka, who was dumped by Jillian Harris on the fifth edition of The Bachelorette.

Premieres Monday

In a recent interview, the 25-year-old Clark University graduate reminisced about Pavelka, discussed her most athletic suitors and recalled when a boyfriend cheated on her — while she was sleeping.

Q Why did you want to do The Bachelorette after what happened last season with Jake?

A My decision to choose my job over Jake last season was really hard. I think it worked out for the best because he is now in love and has his relationship, and he's engaged and happy, and I'm happy, and that's really all that matters. This time, I decided I wanted to do what's best for me, and that's putting love first.

Q Have you seen or spoken with Jake since the show? Do you still have feelings for him?

A I haven't seen Jake since the show. I wanted to watch him on Dancing With the Stars, because I heard he's really great. I don't have those kind of feelings. I will always care for him as a friend. He's a great guy and a great person, but I've definitely moved on.

Q How do you feel about infidelity? Have you ever had a boyfriend cheat on you?

A I've had a boyfriend cheat on me — in a bad way — while I was sleeping in another room. It was in another room of my house. It's wrong. It's unforgivable. Do I necessarily think once a cheater always a cheater? No, I don't think that, but I think once you've done it once in a relationship, it's very hard to recover in that relationship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IMAGE PROVIDED

Ali Fedotowsky is no stranger to the Bachelor/Bachelorette reality TV series but this time around she'll be doing the choosing.

FRIDAY 5/21/10

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Access H.	Medium (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		The Bridge (N) (DVS)		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	King	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Coach
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Wife Swap (N)		Primetime: What Would You		20/20 (N)
	245	306 6 CBRT	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News	TBA	TBA	TBA	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NUMB3RS		Friday Night Lights (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		Warehouse 13 "Claudia"		Scrubs	Scrubs	Murdoch Mysteries		EP Daily
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium (N)		Miami Medical
	-	374 14 KSPS	PBS NewsHour (N)		Washington	McLaughlin	Need to Know (HDTV) (N)		News	From the Top	Appalachia
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	Friday Night Lights (N)		Dateline NBC (HDTV)		
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Open and Shut"		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		The Great War
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 "Black or White: Kids on Race"				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	NHL Hockey: Sharks at Blackhawks			SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			E:60		Association
	408	418 27 net	(6) Hockey (Live)				Sportsnet Con.	The Grid	Sportsnet Connected (HDTV)		Ultimate Fight
family	552	543 20 YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	*Spectacular!* (2009, Drama) Nolan Gerard Funk.				Things I Hate	Survive This	To Be Indie
	557	541 39 FAM	Wizards-Place	Jonas	Good-Charlie	Suite/Deck	*Starstruck* (2010, Drama) Sterling Knight.			*Roxy Hunter and the Secret*	
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners, Drive	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds "Lucky"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*Odysseus and the Isle of the Mists* (2008, Fantasy)				Kenny vs.
	520	505 35 DISC	Canada's Worst Handyman		Egypt Unwrapped (N)		Daily Planet		Canada's Worst Handyman		Dirty Jobs
	628	584 43 SPIKE	CSI: Cri. Scene	(7:36) 1,000 Ways to Die		(8:22) When Good Pets Go Bad			Ways to Die	GameTrailers	UFC Prime
	522	516 45 HIST	Ultimate Engineering		Ax Men (HDTV)		Nostradamus Effect		*Blow* ★★ (2001, Drama) Johnny Depp.		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *The Hunted* ★★ (2003)		*They Live* ★★ (1988, Science Fiction) Roddy Piper.				*The Shining* ★★★ (1980, Horror)		
	581	566 102 MTV	Cribs	Cribs	The Hills	After	1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	1 girl 5 gays	Cribs	MTV Live

SATURDAY 5/22/10

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	243	317 3 CFCN	W5 (DVS)		Law & Order: SVU		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Law & Order (HDTV)		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Chinese Rest.	Trendy Zone	*Tactical Unit: Partners* (2009, Crime Drama) Simon Yam.				Most Amazing
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight		Lost "Pilot" (HDTV)				Castle
	245	306 6 CBRT	*An American Tail* ★★★ (1986, Fantasy), Laura Carson				*René Lévesque II* (2009, Biography) Emmanuel Bilodeau. (DVS)				
	244	338 7 CICT	16:9-Picture	renegadepress	*The Party Never Stops* (2007, Drama) Sara Paxton.				Jane Show	G-Spot	News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Cooking	Most Amazing	Glenn Martin	Out There	*Decoys* ★★ (2004, Comedy) Corey Sevier. (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Scrubs	Grey's Anatomy		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		48 Hours Mystery		48 Hours Myst.
	-	374 14 KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show		May-December	Time Goes By	*The Thin Man* ★★★★ (1934, Comedy-Drama)				Globe Trekker
	-	370 16 KHQ	KHQ-News 6	Judge Judy	CSI: NY "Pay Up"		Parenthood (HDTV)		Law & Order (HDTV)		Law & Order
	-	373 22 KAYU	MLB Baseball		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV)		House "Three Stories"		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	National	Mansbridge	Volcano That Stopped		National	News: At Issue	National	Mansbridge	Volcano-Stop
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	NBA Basketball				SportsCentre		College Basketball		
	408	418 27 net	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Arizona Diamondbacks.				MLB Postgame	Countdown to	Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet Con.
family	552	543 20 YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Suite/Deck	Wingin' It	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*My Brother The Pig* (2000, Comedy)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Chopped		Top Chef Masters		Hell's Kitchen		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Chopped
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Howie Do It	About a Girl	ReGenesis (HDTV)		*Disaster Zone: Volcano in New York* (2006, Action)				*Layer Cake*
	520	505 35 DISC	Deadliest Catch		Destroyed	Destroyed	Breaking Point "House"		Criss Angel Mindfreak		Handyman
	628	584 43 SPIKE	*Star Wars VI: Return*		(7:58) *Star Wars IV: A New Hope* ★★★★ (1977, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill.						*Star Wars V*
	522	516 45 HIST	Storm Planets (HDTV)		Nostradamus Effect		Cities of the Underworld		*Sahara* ★★ (2005, Adventure)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Taps* ★★ (1981, Drama) Timothy Hutton, Ronny Cox.				Shootout		*Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* (2003)		
	581	566 102 MTV	Cribs	Cribs	MTV Live	Movie Night	After	MTV Live	1 girl 5 gays	After	Cribs

SUNDAY 5/23/10

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	243	317 3 CFCN	Miami Medical		Lost (HDTV) Reviewing the events of the series. (N)				Lost "The End" (N)		
	-	- 4 OMNI	Let's Talk About It		Aaram	Chardi Kalaa	Bollywood Boulevard		Speaking in Tongues		Nation of Cha
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	Storm Stories	Lost (HDTV) Reviewing the events of the series. (N)				Lost "The End" (N)		
	245	306 6 CBRT	Geologic Journey		*Céline* (2008, Biography) Christine Ghawi, Jodelle Ferland.				CBC News: The National		fifth estate
	244	338 7 CICT	The Celebrity Apprentice Mr. Trump chooses a winner.				The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy (N)		News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		Friends	Friends	Extreme Makeover: Home		Survivorman (DVS)		Crusoe
	-	372 12 KREM	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn -- The Last Rodeo (N)				CSI: Crime Scn
	-	374 14 KSPS	Lark Rise to Candleford		Nature (HDTV) (DVS)		Masterpiece Mystery! (HDTV) (N)			West Coast	MI-5
	-	370 16 KHQ	KHQ-News 6	Wheel-Fortune	Dateline NBC (HDTV)		Minute to Win It (N)		The Celebrity Apprentice		
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "Love Hurts"		'Til Death	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy (N)		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		*Who Killed the Electric Car?* ★★★ (2006, Documentary)				CBC News: The National		*Electric Car*
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	(6:30) NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns.				SportsCentre		Motoring 2010	Motorcycle	E:60
	408	418 27 net	(6) MLB Baseball New York Yankees at New York Mets.				Sportsnet Connected (N)		Sportsnet Connected (N)		Poker
family	552	543 20 YTV	*Kicking & Screaming* ★★ (2005, Comedy) Will Ferrell.				League-Evil	Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Suite/Deck	Wingin' It	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*The Haunted Mansion* (2003, Comedy)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant Makeover		Hell's Kitchen		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520 26 A&E	Hoarders (HDTV)		Hoarders "Linda; Todd"		Hoarders (HDTV)		(10:01) Hoarders		Hoarders
	617	522 32 SHOW	(5) *Sahara*	Kink in Hair	Pure Pwnage	Trailer Park	*Summer House* (2008, Suspense) Lindsay Price.				*Casino Royale*
	520	505 35 DISC	MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters		MythBusters
	628	584 43 SPIKE	Deadliest	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)		(8:36) Deadliest Warrior		Ways to Die	(10:13) 1,000 Ways to Die		Police Chases
	522	516 45 HIST	Aftermath (HDTV)		Nostradamus: 2012 (HDTV) Predictions of cataclysm.				*Deep Impact* ★★ (1998, Drama)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(5:30) *True Crime* (1999)		Breaking Bad "Fly"		(9:02) Breaking Bad		(10:03) Mad Men		Breaking Bad
	581	566 102 MTV	The Challenge: Fresh Meat II		The Challenge: Fresh Meat II		MTV Live	Movie Night	1 girl 5 gays	Ult. Parkour	The Challenge

Groff's second chance at Glee

TV MUSICAL According to Jonathan Groff, fans of TV's Glee seem "okay" with his character Jesse St. James, a hated Glee club rival and romantic interloper.

"I haven't been spit on yet," laughs Groff. "And I got to say — I don't see Jesse as a bad guy. I think maybe Rachel (Lea Michele) has found a match in Jesse. But that's just me."

Of course, it helps that Groff's on-screen paramour is also his long time best friend. Groff and Michele worked the Broadway stage together years ago in a production of Spring Awakening.

"It was my first big break. And to be working with my best friend now doesn't seem like work at all."

It wasn't a complete coincidence that they would end up on the same TV show. It was Groff who first introduced Michele to Glee creator Ryan Murphy. And when Murphy first mentioned he was working on a new show called Glee, he already had Groff in mind for a part. Problem was Groff was initially tied up with another series pilot. But when that failed to catch on, Glee beckoned.

"A role was written specifically for me for the back nine episodes," says Groff, whose late arrival has given him a unique perspective on the series' rapid, overwhelming success. "I saw Glee explode from my TV at home. Then I got dropped into the hurricane."

So far, Groff counts his duet with Michele on Lionel Richie's Hello as a show favorite. And his toughest musical moment? AC/DC's Highway To Hell.

"I'm a singer before a dancer. Dancing is something that that doesn't ever come easily."

As for Jesse St. James' future on the series, it's up in the air. Though Glee was renewed for another season a long time ago (and was recently awarded the coveted time slot after next year's Super Bowl), Groff isn't sure what his role might be.

"Details for my involvement haven't been worked out yet," he says. "But I'd love to see Rachel and Jesse end up together." Glee airs Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on Global.

IAN JOHNSTON/ FOR METRO CANADA

Glee's Jonathan Groff

Susan Boyle set for a Glee-ful Christmas
Glee has already had some phenomenal guest-stars so far, including Josh Groban, Kristin Chenoweth, and, last week, Neil Patrick Harris. Now, EW is reporting Susan Boyle will appear in a season two Christmas episode. EW.COM

Television

Klein takes a bite out of Twilight's Lutz

MITZI MILLER
Metro World News

During a New York store appearance, the Twilight actor and Calvin Klein underwear poster boy Kellan Lutz talks vampires and briefs with Metro.

Twilight star Kellan Lutz went back to his modelling roots for the new Calvin Klein underwear campaign.

Q Before you began acting, you were a model. What about Calvin Klein Underwear made you want to go back to modeling again?

A I got into modeling when I was in a financial crisis. It was a great way to make money. I never thought I was pretty by any means. But it was great to be a part of that world. And the pinnacle of that world is to be on a billboard. I grew up wearing Calvin Klein. It's one of those things. As a model, I dreamt of being Marky Mark, being on a billboard and selling that company.

Q Speaking of Marky-Mark, were you nervous about comparisons when shooting this campaign?

A I was thrilled. I loved Marky-Mark's campaign. And by no means was I trying to fill his britches or, uh, boxer-briefs. I was just stepping into them and doing my best to follow in his footsteps. And that's all I can hope and pray for. I think the audience has really enjoyed the campaign so it's nice to be a part of it.

Q Any surprises in store for the next Twilight movie, Eclipse?

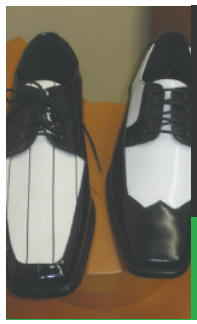
A It's really tough for our characters — the movies are based on the books. So a lot of characters are like — they barely have lines, they're barely in it. But you can't rewrite the books. And I'm just grateful to have a line or a purpose in there. But definitely, Emmett's character and story grow immensely in Eclipse. You see the battle between the newborns and you see the werewolves coming along. It's a big fighting movie and that's Emmett's strength. So there's the fighting and the big brother role, which is nice.

Q Since you were already in production, did you really have to prepare physically for this Calvin Klein campaign?

A Well I did. You know Emmett, my character, is more of the big guy. So I don't need the washboard abs, just the size. So I did a lot of push-ups and tons of protein. But for Calvin Klein, it's underwear. So I called up my buddy Rich McDonald who's a personal trainer friend of mine. He put me on a great diet that took out the candy (which I love) and the carbs past 4 o'clock (which I break here and there). And he told me a great thing, which is too drink water as much as you can. Cause when you don't drink water, your body needs to hold on to it to stay hydrated. So I started training with him and he got me into the shape that I need to be for the campaign. I trained for two weeks.

Q So ... boxers or briefs?

A Boxer-briefs! And I love the blue trimmed ones. The blue ones bring out my eyes. (laughs). I didn't come-up with that. I was on the street and I bent over to pick up my bag out the car and this girl yelled out, you have the blue ones on and your eyes are blue. And I was like, 'oh yeah, they do bring out my eyes!'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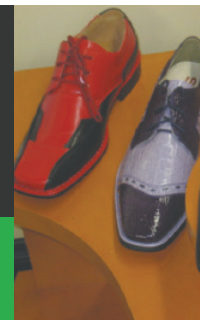

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Final season of Smallville

The fate of Smallville has finally been decided: Its 10th season will be its last. The long-running superhero series will come to a close following its upcoming season this fall, the CW said Wednesday. TVGUIDE.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 iPhone Remotes

TECH Is there anything an iPhone can't do? Apparently not. With a handy plug-in accessory you can now turn your favourite gizmo into a universal remote, allowing you to surf channels with a single touch. l5remote.com.

2 Victoria Day

HOLIDAY Sure, technically summer doesn't hit until June 21, but this weekend marks Canada's psychological arrival of the season. It's a long weekend name for the longest reigning female monarch in world history — how can that not deserve a trip to the cottage and a "cold one" to celebrate.

3 Stratford, Ont.

TRAVEL Looks like Stratford, Ont., is the place for parents and their kids this summer. While mom and dad take in the annual theatre festival, their tweens can head out on a Justin Bieder-inspired tour of the town. See where he went to school, where he performed, and the Subway he liked to hang at. Visit welcometostratford.com/justin.

4 Balmshell Lip Gloss

BEAUTY Pucker, pout, pull faces. Whatever you do, punch up your lip-smacking power with one of Balmshell's 10 sensuous shades of lip-gloss. Canadian made, paraben-free and stuffed with jojoba oil, each colour has its own girly floating illustration built right into the tube, turning touch up time into play time.

5 True Blood Season 2

DVD It will be a fang-tastical day on Tuesday when the second season of the hit HBO show debuts on DVD. Season Two is currently airing on Space, but that's no reason to avoid buying the box set to find out the fate of Sookie Stackhouse and the rest of the residents of Bon Temps.

6 Xavier Dolan

FILM The Quebec filmmaker kept his title of Canada's golden boy of cinema, receiving positive reactions this week at Cannes for his sophomore film, Heartbeats. Last year, Dolan's debut I Killed my Mother was a smash hit at the film festival.

7 Custom-made revenge raps

TECH Want to show someone you care by delivering an especially snappy zinger? What about a revenge rap? Rap Master Maurice, a.k.a. Derek Erdman of Chicago, will write you a rap, then deliver them to a voicemail inbox of your choosing. They're like a nastier singing telegram.

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Mix of Six

ACAD Graduating Student Exhibition

When: Friday and Saturday
Where: Alberta College of Art + Design

Join to celebrate the work of over 200 of the graduating class of students, highlighting creativity, experimentation and innovation in the fields of art and design.

Otafest 2010

When: All weekend
Where: University of Calgary (MacEwan Student Centre, MacEwan Hall, Science A, Science B, Science Theatres, Earth Sciences and Hotel Alma)

Otafest showcases Japanese animation and aims to address the importance of opposites; the yin and yang of East Asian culture.

137th Birthday of the Formation of the N.W.M.P.

When: Monday
Where: Fort Calgary

Calgarians are invited to join Fort Calgary on Victoria Day, Monday May 24, in a ceremonial cake cutting at 11:00 A.M. to commemorate this very important day in Canada's history.

2010 Calgary International Children's Festival

When: On until May 29
Where: EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts and on Olympic Plaza

Calgary's biggest play date of the year, the Calgary International Children's Festival, presented by Qualico Communities, will be held at the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts and on Olympic Plaza.

DSW Dance LAB and Creative Process

When: Friday
Where: Dancer's Studio West

With Jason Stroh, for more information please call 403-244-0950.

Going to Hell Sundays

When: Friday
Where: Balance Lounge

Standup comedy tour, unrestrained and every Sunday.

Entertainment in brief

PEOPLE For all the world-class food and entertainment, deft touches and elegance of the evening, the Obamas' second state dinner was as notable for what didn't happen as what did. As far as anyone could tell, no one crashed the party. And no other major disasters were apparent either. As the evening wore on, the smiles on the faces of White House staff seemed to get more relaxed. And even the president loosened up.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Government of Alberta

Citizenship and Immigration Canada | Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

Wedding bells mark a half century

Having turned 50 only last month, Valerie Bertinelli is looking forward to a wedding this fall to her boyfriend of six years, Tom Vitale. Vitale, 48, proposed on a romantic night in Florence, people.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Lost in transportation

THIS IS ONE TRIP SHE WISHED SHE HADN'T DROPPED A judge issued a warrant Thursday for Lindsay Lohan's arrest after the actress missed a mandatory hearing. Bail was set at $100,000.

The 23-year-old actress was due in court for a progress report on her probation stemming from two arrests in 2007. Her attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, said Lohan's passport was stolen while she was at the Cannes Film Festival and was unable to return to Los Angeles in time for Thursday's hearing.

"She did, in fact, have airline tickets," Holley told the judge. "From our standpoint, there is a valid reason for her not being here today."

Holley said Lohan would be back in the United States by Friday evening. Superior Court Judge Marsha Revel wasn't satisfied, saying the star has a history of missing scheduled appointments.

"If she wanted to be here, it looks to the court that she could have been here," Revel said.

The judge revoked Lohan's probation, issued the arrest warrant and imposed several conditions should Lohan make bail. She will be prohibited from drinking any alcohol, required to wear an alcohol-monitoring bracelet and submit to random weekly drug testing. Lohan could be arrested at the airport when she returns.

Lohan has been on probation since August 2007 after pleading guilty to misdemeanour drug charges and no contest to three driving charges. The plea came after a pair of high-profile arrests earlier that year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trapped in tight quarters

AND ILLUSTRATING MANY A YOUNG GIRLS' FANTASY After delighting fans with a show at the Grove shopping complex in L.A., The Jonas Brothers found themselves trapped in an elevator for almost an hour, according to Page Six.

"For the first 15 minutes they thought it was funny, but after 30 they started to worry," a source says.

"Security guards finally managed to pry open the doors. The elevator was between floors. The brothers are skinny and easily squeezed out, but it was tougher for their giant body-guard."

METRO WORLD NEWS

* IN ADDITION TO THE TRANSFER FEE, WESTERN UNION ALSO MAKES MONEY FROM THE EXCHANGE OF CURRENCIES. Money transfer fee of $9 plus 1% of principal is applicable to money transfers less than $1,000 on consumer to consumer Western Union Money Transfer® transactions initiated through *Scotia OnLine*℠ Financial Services which is provided by The Bank of Nova Scotia ("Scotiabank"). Fees are subject to change without prior notice. Scotiabank is an authorized agent facilitating Western Union Money Transfer® services but is not responsible for the funds transfer. A Scotiabank Day to Day account is required for a Western Union Money Transfer transaction.
▲ Free banking offer is available when you open one new Scotiabank *Powerchequing* Account by December 31, 2010 as well as conduct one Western Union Money Transfer transaction through Scotiabank within 90 days of account activation. Free banking offer refers to a waiver of the monthly account fee for the Scotiabank *Powerchequing* Account package for 12 months beginning in the month in which the account is opened; additional fees apply for shared ABM services, cross-border debit transactions and all other banking services not included in the Scotiabank *Powerchequing* Account package. Offer expires December 31, 2010. Offer may be withdrawn at any time and cannot be combined with any other offer.
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Courtney loves Kiss Me, Kate

OR WAS IT SHE LOVES KISSING KATE? Courtney Love has hinted for years that she had a lesbian fling with a supermodel, and she's now revealed that is was Kate Moss.

"It was Kate Moss. She doesn't care," Love tells Hot Press magazine.

"Kate wasn't doing a lot of drugs. It was just a thing that happened in Milan in the '90s. It happened and it was fun and whatever.

"And she talks about it and so I hope she doesn't get mad that I outed her about it. I feel like such a kiss-and-tell."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Bye bye, beautiful couple

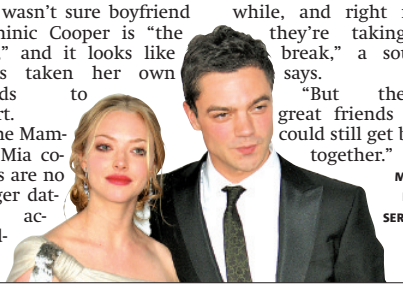
AND ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST Amanda Seyfried said in a recent interview that she wasn't sure boyfriend Dominic Cooper is "the one," and it looks like she's taken her own words to heart.

The Mamma Mia costars are no longer dating, according to People magazine.

"Amanda and Dominic have been on and off for a while, and right now they're taking a break," a source says.

"But they're great friends and could still get back together."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Our mini make-out maven

YAH, HE GETS AROUND Teen sensation Justin Bieber insists he is an old hand when it comes to making out with girls.

"I'm a good — I'm a great kisser.

"I've made out with a couple of chicks," he says in an interview on the syndicated Johnjay and Rich radio show.

Of course, the Range Rover mentor Usher gave him for his 16th birthday doesn't hurt.

"I mean, if you're driving you make a little stop at, you know, the Walmart rest stop. You're good," he says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Rules don't apply to Paris

HER NAME IS PASSPORT ENOUGH Paris Hilton nearly missed the parties in Cannes because she forgot her passport when heading to France from Spain, according to Page Six. "She had to turn around and get another flight," sister Nicky Hilton was overheard telling pals at a party in Cannes. Luckily, the passport was retrieved and a later flight was booked, and Paris made it in time for the festival parties and the Monaco Grand Prix.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

ADAM LAMBERT may cause an accident, **ALYSSA MILANO** has had enough, **NEIL PATRICK HARRIS** is staying up late, and **JESSICA SIMPSON** is settling in for a nap.

@adamlambert X-tina's WooHoo is hot! I'm dancing while driving! Shwerk!
@Alyssa_Milano Dear BP, Stop the negligence. Stop trying to save your drill well. And stop this oilspill. Sincerely, Earth
@ActuallyNPH Late night with the Survivor All Stars. Heading to the dirty east village club, The Box. I'm in reality heaven.
@JessicaSimpson Let's see what kind of afternoon dreams I can have ... ready ... set ... go ...

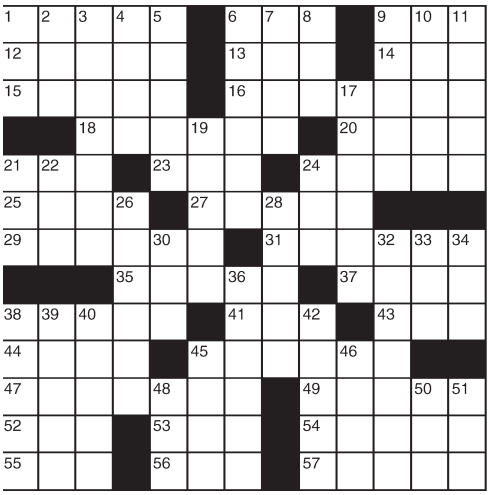
METRO NEWS SERVICES

BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today Mostly sunny 12 C / 3 C
Saturday Rain 10 C / 1 C
Sunday Rain 11 C / 2 C

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Piano man
6 Legislation
9 Spotted, a la Tweety
12 Mountain crest
13 Essen exclamation
14 Mound stat
15 Gyro holders
16 Self-resurrecting bird
18 Frail
20 Sit for a shot
21 Crony
23 Dundee denial
24 Tablecloth material
25 Rainbow
27 Perfect
29 Church bellringer
31 Nincompoop
35 Angler's gear
37 Al or Tipper
38 Cut into cubes
41 Evergreen type
43 Genetic strand
44 Bassoon's cousin
45 Sign up
47 Discard
49 — wave
52 Wander
53 Raw rock
54 Homes, in today's jargon
55 Type measures
56 Director Craven
57 Put under a bad spell

DOWN

1 Astaire specialty
2 Spoon-bender Geller
3 Blockbuster alternative
4 Handy pc. of Latin
5 Varnish ingredient
6 Expired
7 Needing liniment
8 Personal question
9 Mortise's partner
10 Get up
11 Pallid
17 Literary ending
19 Locale for many Stephen King tales
21 Greek consonants
22 Exist
24 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
26 Frequent Oscar nominee
28 Ford flop
30 U.K. ref. bk.
32 Army installation in New Jersey
33 Coffee vessel
34 Vast expanse
36 Bobcats
38 Evade
39 Construction piece
40 Dorm dwellers, often
42 Common Halloween costume
45 Green land
46 Paddock papa
48 Spread seeds
50 Copper head?
51 1960s hallucinogen

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

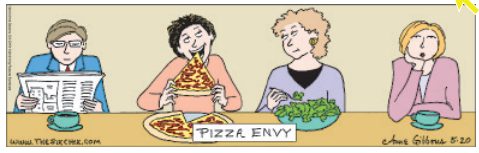
6	1	8			3			5
	2	4	5			6	8	
5				6		4		
				9	8	5	2	
			7		2			
	3	9	1	5				
		2		8				9
	9	6			4	1	5	
4			9			2	6	7

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

1	3	2	7	5	6	9	8	4
8	5	9	4	3	2	6	1	7
7	6	4	1	9	8	2	5	3
9	2	5	6	7	4	1	3	8
6	4	8	2	1	3	7	9	5
3	7	1	9	8	5	4	6	2
5	1	6	8	4	7	3	2	9
4	9	3	5	2	1	8	7	6
2	8	7	3	6	9	5	4	1

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Steakhouse Salad

INGREDIENTS:
Steak:
4 red peppers
300 g trimmed filet mignon
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
1 garlic clove
500 g green beans, trimmed

SALAD AND DRESSING:
3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
2 tsp extra-virgin olive oil
1 garlic clove
2 tbsp minced shallot
8 cups mesclun
6 tomatoes, cut into wedges

METHOD:
1 Preheat broiler. Put red peppers on broiler pan. Cook until skins are blistered and blackened, 10 minutes, turning frequently. Put in paper bag, seal tightly, and let steam 10 minutes. Peel away blackened skins from peppers, seed, and cut into chunks.

2 Meanwhile, lay filet flat on cutting board and slit lengthwise three-quarters of the way through. Open and press flat. Sprinkle with half the salt and pepper. Halve 1 garlic clove and rub over beef. Broil beef until done to taste, 3 minutes on each side for medium. Thinly slice.

3 Cook beans in boiling water until crisp-tender, 5 minutes. Drain; rinse immediately with cold water.

4 Mince remaining garlic clove. Whisk vinegar, oil, garlic, shallot, and remaining salt and pepper in small bowl. Divide mesclun among plates and arrange steak, red peppers, beans, and tomatoes on top. Drizzle with dressing.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
What you need more than anything now is to get together with a group of people who share your tastes, interests and opinions.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will be looking to treat yourself at every opportunity. And why not? You've done more than enough to deserve it.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You can feel your energy beginning to grow and already you are making plans on how best to use it. The next few weeks will bring many opportunities.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Grab some time for yourself today. Your work schedule may be busy but you need to think about some more personal issues.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You may have big plans but how practical are they? This is the question you need to ask yourself today.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Positive cosmic developments will fuel your sense of ambition today and over the weekend, but don't get carried away.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You are so full of self-belief that you want to be challenged so you can show what you can do. No doubt that will happen but don't go looking for a fight.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You will be looking for meaning in the world around you. Whether or not you find it remains to be seen, but look inside yourself too.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A loved one may be under the impression that they have offended you, simply because you have been too busy to pay them much attention.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
There may be times today when you lose sight of your long-term goal, simply because there are so many little things to take care of.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Everyone has a talent, something that they are naturally good at, and the planets are urging you to make better use of the gifts you were born with.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
The Sun's transit of the domestic angle of your chart over the next few weeks warns you must not let developments on the home front get to you.

This day in history

1881: The American Red Cross is established by Clara Barton.
1904: The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is founded in Paris.
1979: White Night riots in San Francisco following the manslaughter conviction of Dan White for the assassinations of George Moscone and Harvey Milk.
1981: Irish Republican hunger strikers Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara die on hunger strike in Maze prison.
1998: Suharto, Indonesian president of 32 years, resigns.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

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DIESEL
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XLT
CREW
DIESEL
40KM

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2009 FOCUS
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SES COUPE
21KM

$13,990

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STK# 18472
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STK# 18471
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23KM

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AWD
26KM

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2008 E-150
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XLT
46KM
8 PASSENGER

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2009 ESCAPE
STK# A136AA
AWD
XLT
50KM

$19,990

2008 F-350
STK# 18451
CREW
LARIAT
DIESEL
93KM

$33,990

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SEL
AWD
31KM

$19,990

2008 TOWN CAR
STK#
SIGNATURE
LTD
28KM

$24,990

2007 EXPEDITION
STK# 18450
MAX
EDDIE
BAUER
42KM

$35,990

2007 F-150
STK# R9944
S CREW
K/R
126KM

$21,990

2007 ACCENT
STK# AT50AA
SR
77KM

$9,990

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SIGNATURE
51KM

$20,990

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XLT
81KM

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STK# 84841
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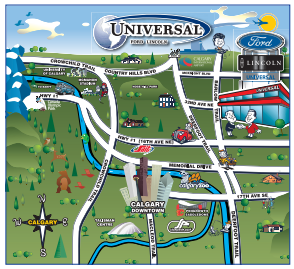

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